

THE GOD DRIVEN CHURCH

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
OF THE LATTER RAIN

- DIVINE HEALING • WATER BAPTISM •
- SPEAKING IN OTHER TONGUES •
- SECOND COMING OF JESUS •

JOCK DUNCAN

40 YEARS A PENTECOSTAL PREACHER



Jock and Hellen both heard the Full Gospel message in the 1950's: Hellen was only 9 and Jock was 17. The Pentecostal Revival was still mostly unheard of throughout the world. All the mainline churches were vehemently apposed to the Pentecostal Experience. It was a big challenge to go against the wishes of friends and relatives and dare to even contemplate leaving their mainline church affiliations and join this, what appeared to be, a very radical and way-out group.

This was a time when children and teenagers were subject to their parents and families generally did things together. Fortunately, both Jock's and Hellen's immediate families came to the Lord. The McConechy family (Hellen's) was living on a dairy farm near Barwon Heads, Victoria, Australia, when they were witnessed to by a neighbour, who had also just found the Truth. The year was 1955. This was the time of the big Pentecostal Tent meetings, such as Oral Roberts and the Missionary Evangelist T.L. Osborn was often preaching to 100,000 plus in many third world countries. Australia was also witnessing a new awakening to the message of Divine Healing; Receiving the Holy Spirit (with "*signs following*"); Full Immersion Baptism and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Jock's family (the Duncan's) heard the same message from the same group, through a recently converted family friend, in 1959. They had just recently moved back to Adelaide from a country town called Port Lincoln, both in South Australia. The Duncan's search began, after visiting a Billy Graham meeting mid 1959, at the Adelaide Show Grounds. You will need to read the book to get all the details!

Dedication

I dedicate this book to God, because He is the one who is the driving force behind the Latter Rain; For He is the one who has been searching out individuals and calling them to represent Him in the Last Days. He it is that never fails us and is always with us unto the End of the World. The deluge of rain commonly called the Pentecostal Revival is completely of His doing and His Zeal. I love Him and thank him for Jesus, the Saviour of the World, who is now my daily companion. I thank him also for “inventing” the wonderful sign of “speaking in other tongues” as the evidence that one is now Baptized and Filled with the Holy Spirit. I dedicate this book to Elohim; Jehovah, El Shaddai and the Great I Am and I thank Him for allowing me to be part of The God Driven Church.

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These thoughts and beliefs are mine and mine alone. You may or may not agree with some or all of these thoughts. People that are mentioned in this book also may or may not agree with some or all of these thoughts. This book is an accumulation of 40 plus years of experience as a Pentecostal Preacher. I hope I have God’s imprimatur.

Chapter One - Connections

Barend and Ans Cabouta are Dutchies. They had an enormous impact upon my life. They both come from Rotterdam in the Netherlands. Barend was born in 1916 and at my last check is still going fine. He is 7 years older than Ans and they met during the occupation of Holland. Ans' mother was Dutch, but her father was German and became a German Officer during the occupation. Barend and Ans both worked for a Dairy business; Ans in the laboratory, while Barend was an inspector visiting farms to make farmers comply with the law. During WW11 this was nerve wracking to say the least; if he caught a farmer breaking the law and reported it, such as using some of his milk to make butter at home and then sell it on the "Black Market", he would be shot by the Germans. On one occasion, Barend noticed a particular farmer's normal quota of milk was down quite a few litres. He decided to check out the farmer. On arriving on his bike at the farm, the farmer saw him coming and released a large dog, which promptly attacked Barend. He quickly got the bike between himself and the dog; he then hit the dog on the head with a sharp butter-pat type instrument, thereby dispatching the dog and then proceeded to examine the dairy for the Black Market butter.

Barend heard that there was a young lady working in the Dairy Laboratory that had a German father, who wanted to send her back to Germany to meet a German boy (to prevent her marrying a Dutch boy). Barend had connections with the Dutch Underground and offered her the opportunity to "disappear" if that was what she wanted. She decided she would stay put and see what happened. She was never sent.

Shortly thereafter Barend found he needed to hide from the Germans and approached Ans to see if she could hide him. Her family home had a room right at the top and Barend moved in there, with his future Mother-in-law's blessing. Ans' father was rarely home and was usually drunk.

On one occasion the Germans cordoned off the whole area and did a house by house search for any Dutch men they could apprehend and send to Germany to work in the munitions factories. When they knocked on Ans' home, her mother opened the door and said there were no Dutch men in the house. The house was not searched; they did not think anyone would be hiding in the house of a German Officer!

So Barend and Ans survived the war. As a married couple, they lived in the same room at the top of Ans' parent's house in Rotterdam. They wanted to start their own life, but Europe was still recovering from the war. They decided to immigrate.

Shortly after the war, in the late forties, Ans became a Girl Guide Leader. My mother's cousin, Joyce MacFarlane, was also a Girl Guide Leader here in Australia. Joyce with her troupe sent food packages to the Guides in Rotterdam, as food, etc. was in short supply. The Dutchies thought it would be nice to write a "Thank You" letter, and the only one who could write such a letter was Ans, who had a basic grasp of English. Joyce and Ans continued to communicate by letter.

When it came time to immigrate it was a choice between South Africa and Australia. There was no Government sponsored immigration policy at the time and one needed to be sponsored by a friend or relative in the chosen country. Ans wrote to Joyce and asked for her help. Barend and Ans immigrated to Australia in the early fifties. After having difficulties in finding work near where Joyce lived, they finally found work in Port Lincoln, South Australia. Port Lincoln or just Lincoln as it is called by the locals is a beautiful harbour with a large fishing fleet; Tuna being the

number one catch. In 1949 my immediate family had moved to this country town, 656 kilometers West by road from Adelaide.



Port Lincoln, South Australia

In 1952 Joyce wrote letters to Barend and Ans and also to my parents suggesting they become friends, as neither family knew anyone in particular in Port Lincoln. Christmas/New Year 52/53 was spent together and a wonderful friendship developed between the two families. We are still in contact at the time of writing; both Barend and Ans are still “in the land of the living” (89 and 82 respectively at the time of writing). My parents have both gone to be with the Lord. They would not have died “in the Lord”, but for the wonderful message brought to us by Barend.

Well, sufficient to say at this time, that that I really believe that the connection between the two families was organized by the Lord. More on this story, later in the book.

Chapter Two – Origins

As you most probably have gathered I am an Aussie. I would imagine most people are just like me – extremely proud of their country and nationality. I absolutely love Australia. I am so thankful to God that He let me be born into a middle-class Aussie family. I do not know how many Australians there were in 1942; I should guess only a few million – there are only just over 20,000,000 at the time of writing! Birth certainly seems the ‘luck of the draw’ and I really feel that being born an Aussie was like winning a million dollars. Also my folks were struggling, but not really poor – I never went hungry; I was never cold from exposure. But like my parents, I have had to struggle for life.

If you are reading this (thank you, by the way) from another country, let me explain a little about what it is like to be an Australian. Firstly it is one of the safest countries you will ever live in – just look at all the people, from many troubled countries, that are trying to ‘gate crash’ into Australia, like the ‘boat people’ from some Asian or Middle-Eastern countries – hey, this must be a great place to live. And it is. It is just one nation on a whole continent. You can travel anywhere; live anywhere. Many retirees just spend all their time in a mobile home/caravan roaming all the States, particularly Highway No. 1, which circles the country. It is a multi-cultural country, with little racism or anti stranger feelings – Yes; we are a mixed bunch, from many countries and nationalities.

When one gets to thinking about ones origins, and all the amazing races, one thinks about how it all began – the story of Creation. Being a born-again Christian, I strongly believe in Creation – God making the Earth; Solar-System and the Universe. But of course this is very much from a non scientific point of view. I would not attempt to go into a field that I am not conversant with – so mine is a simple belief based on the Bible approach to the origins of man and the Universe. Because God called me; proved Himself to me by filling me with the Holy Spirit with the sign of ‘speaking in other tongues’ I have joined the happy bunch of ‘saved’ people who believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and that every thing in God’s Word is perfect.

In the first few words of the Book of Genesis, we have a very brief description of how and when God started the Earth; the Universe and life therein. The common belief is that the earth was created around six thousand years ago in six literal days. I have trouble with this and cannot see that is what the Bible is actually saying. Before I comment further, I realize that if this subject was really important, then God would have given us far more detail – He chose not to do that. So whatever our belief on this subject, we should not let it dominate our whole mind, as God wants us to concentrate on what really matters – the preaching of the Gospel.

But some people cannot get past this Bible description, because it does not explain even simple questions like; “Where did Cain get his wife? Did he commit incest with one of his sisters?” or “When I look at all the major races, such as the tiny African Bushmen or the Eskimos or the Australian Aboriginals or the white man, are you telling me that they ‘evolved’ from one man (Adam) in just a few hundred years?” I, for one, do not believe in evolution in any form whatsoever.

But is that what the Bible actually says? Is Genesis chapter two just a repeat of chapter one? I find a huge difference in the two descriptions. Firstly in chapter one the animals appear before man, but in the Garden of Eden, Adam is ‘formed’ before the animals and then later Eve is made at a separate time to Adam. In chapter one man (kind) is made both male and female at the same time. When God finished making

them male and female; He blessed them; he told them to multiply, replenish and subdue the earth – **He saw that it was good**. But Adam and Eve were cursed (the absolute opposite to being blessed) by God after they sinned; they were driven out by God and there was nothing ‘good’ about the whole situation.

What seems to have happened in chapter one is that God created the earth in six periods of time – not a literal 24 hour day. I find it hard to believe that God rested on the seventh day for just 24 hours! God is certainly resting from His works right through to this time, as we are encouraged to have “*entered into His rest.*” (**Hebrews 4:9-11**) I believe that God is still in the seventh day of rest – He is not making new planets or life on them – He is concentrating on the New Creation – saving mankind. The ‘24 hour day’ did not start until after the fourth ‘day’ (period of time with a beginning and an end), when God created the Sun and the Moon. Each period of time could have been millions of years. We do not then have to come up with crazy theories about how coal; oil; diamonds; etc were formed in just a few hundred years. We have time for all the ages and climatic changes to happen. We do not have to worry about the dinosaurs and where they fit in; there is plenty of time for it all to happen. If the Bible does not say it was seven literal days, then why struggle with such difficulties?

It makes a lot more sense and does not disagree with what is written, that the pre-Adamic people were all the different major races; Eskimos for the cold regions; South American Indians for the jungles of the Amazon; The ancient race of the Australian Aboriginals for the Great South Land, etc – they were blessed and told to replenish and occupy the earth.

Now Adam was a special person ‘formed’ (**Genesis 2:7**) (by ‘JEHOVAH’) out of the created earth rather than ‘created’ (**Genesis 1:27**) (‘spoken into being out of nothing’) (by ‘ELOHIM’). He was given a choice to obey or disobey God, rather than being told to have children and spread out over the earth. He was segregated from the first creation by living in the Garden of Eden (situated in the Mesopotamian Valley). He had a personal, close relationship with God. God had talked with him. Adam and Eve sinned, and were driven out of the garden and separated from the Tree of Life and thereby separated from their close relationship with God, which they had previously in the Garden.

Two sons were born and Cain the elder killed Abel the younger. The disobedience of Adam and Eve was then passed onto their children and that “nature to sin” has continued right through to the descendants of “Adam’s helpless race”. Cain was driven further away; married (obviously with the Genesis chapter one creation – he did not commit incest with one of his sisters, as some suggest!) and builds a city, which, population wise would need, more than just his children!

I can hear you saying, “But, does not the Bible say that Adam was the first man”. Well, not actually, even though it uses those words: “*And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; The last Adam was made a quickening spirit.*” (**1 Corinthians 15:45**). This verse is purely making a comparison between Adam (who brought death) and Jesus (who brought life). Jesus is certainly not the last man on earth any more than Adam was the first; it purely indicates which one came before the other. Also in **verse 47** “*The first man (Adam) is of the earth, earthy: the second man (Jesus) is the Lord from heaven.*” Again, Jesus is no more the second man on the earth, anymore than Adam was the first – the scripture is just pointing out which one came first.

At the time Adam named his wife he called her Eve (‘living’), “*because she was the mother of all living*”. (**Genesis 3:20**) Adam, still in the Garden of Eden, had

never seen anybody else – to him she truly was the mother of all living. **Genesis chapter six** talks about the “*sons of God*” (Elohim) coming into “*the daughters of men*” (Adam). “Created” mankind joining with “formed” mankind.

When the Lord returns He will give us all the details – it would be truly wonderful to be given an opportunity to observe the creation of the Universe.

If we believe that the whole earth was flooded at the time of Noah, we end up with some of the same problems – all the diverse tribes of the earth being the descendants from one man: Noah. God, throughout the Old Testament, dealt with the “Middle-East” region. When Noah was building the Ark (which took about 100 years to build) and being a “*preacher of righteousness*” (**2 Peter 2:5**), there is no indication that he traveled far from the Mesopotamian Valley, where the Ark was being prepared. I do not believe he traveled to South America and gave the Indians a choice to board the Ark; or the Maoris in New Zealand; or the Eskimos in Alaska. When it came time to board the Ark, he did not have to travel to New Zealand to save the Kiwi or the Moa birds; or to South America to obtain a pair of sloths, who live in the rain forest; or to Tasmania for a pair of Tasmanian Devils. God’s whole focus was on the Mesopotamian/Middle-East region. They were the people given a chance they later rejected. It was sensible to keep the “balance of nature” in that region and invite the local animals on board.

The Ark lifted off in the Mesopotamian Valley. Any living thing in that region perished, if they were not on board the Ark. We gather from Genesis chapter eight that when it was all over the waters “*abated*”; “decreased” – they drained away (difficult if the whole world was flooded!). When the Ark settled down; it was not on Mount Everest; nor was it on Mount Cook in New Zealand or the Sahara Desert. No it was in the same region that it lifted off; on the edge of the Mesopotamian Valley; on Mount Ararat.

The rest of the earth continued on as before. If we believe that only the Mesopotamian region was flooded, we do not have to wonder how the Kangaroo or the Sloth (which only travel in trees!) crossed the land and oceans to get to the Ark. We do not have to have Noah as the father of the African Negro or the Asian races or the American Indians. People who support the whole earth being flooded have not really thought the matter through properly. The Bible is not un-scientific. Not even hardened Evolutionists would acknowledge that all the myriad of races could “evolve” (because that is what would have had to happen) from just one white couple – Mr. and Mrs. Noah – in just a few hundred years! The time of the flood is set around 2,400BC (give or take a few decades!). In around 600BC Jeremiah the Prophet writes: “*Can the Ethiopian change his skin...*” (*KJV*) Another translation puts it “*Can an Ethiopian change the color of his skin...*” **Jeremiah 13:23**.

Does anyone imagine the Ethiopian had just suddenly appeared at the time of Jeremiah? Of course not! But let us say that he had just found out he was black and not white. So in just approximately 1,800 years, he had “evolved” from a white Noah to a black Ethiopian! Now this “change” did not happen through inter-marriage. **Remember:** if Noah’s family is the only one on earth, **there is no other race to marry into!** People talk about a “throw-back” – but there is no other race to “throw-back” to!



The African Bushmen



Eskimos

Let us take the Arab peoples over that last 1800 years (we have a much longer record of them, as a people, than just the 1800 years). Has there been any tendency to change, say, into Asiatic or Australian Aborigines? Let us take the Aborigines themselves. Do we think this ancient people looked any different from, say, at the time of Christ, up until the time of the 1st Fleet, in 1788AD? Of course not! Then why do we support the belief, that the Bible says, all the races of the earth descended from just one family in a few hundred years?



Aboriginals



Arabs



Noah



PNG Mud Men



American Indians

Again I can hear you say, “But does not the Bible say that the whole earth was flooded?” (**Genesis chapter seven**). True, but there are many other places where it talks in similar language, but is actually again talking about a certain part only. An example of that (and there are many more) is in **Luke 2:1** “*And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.*” Now we know that “*all the world*” at that time was the Roman Empire, not Indonesia or Australia or South America. In **Daniel 7:23** there is a prophecy concerning the “*fourth beast*”. It is well recognized that four mighty kingdoms were to follow one upon the other in some of the prophecies of Daniel. Babylon; Medo/Persian; Greece and then finally the Roman Empire. The fourth kingdom here (Rome) is described as one that “*...shall devour the whole earth*”. You will not find any Roman ruins in Sydney or Cape Town.

Nobody knows definitely the story of Creation or the Flood. But next time you have somebody who thinks they can “escape” the things that really matter, such as a commitment to God by saying, “Well I could never believe that the whole earth was flooded” or “I cannot believe the Bible because it is so un-scientific with its six day creation”, you could answer them like I do. “Well, the Bible might not actually say that the whole earth was flooded and that maybe only the local area that God was dealing with was destroyed” or “Well, the Bible does not exactly say that it was six literal 24 hour days; it could have been over many millions of years”. The **order** in which the Bible describes creation certainly agrees with the **true findings** of science.

I have many a time stopped a critic of the Bible, when they have brought up these old “red herrings”, by presenting this alternative view. Do I favour the “two creations” idea and that only the Mesopotamian region was flooded? Yes, I do, because it just makes so much more sense to myself and the “man in the street”. Am I positive that is how it all happened? No, I am not. No more than those who favour seven 24 hour days or the whole earth being flooded. We should all be prepared for the Lord to say to us one day: “Well those were certainly some interesting thoughts you had on the Creation and the Flood, but in actual fact you were wrong. This is how

it all happened.....” I am really hoping He gives us a re-run of all those wonderful events – we will have plenty of time!

What is God focusing on? Creation or the Flood? Neither; God’s full attention is on calling people unto salvation. He is into making people a “new creation”; anointing people with the Holy Spirit to give them the “born again” experience. The Bible says that “*the world that then was, (Noah’s world) being overflowed with water, perished:*” is now “*reserved unto fire.*” (**11 Peter 3:6, 7**) God is now dealing literally with the “*whole world*”. His attention is on this last generation, and bringing to pass all His prophecies and promises. Do I know when the Lord is returning? Yes! “*...in such an hour as you think not*”. (**Matthew 24:44**) But right now it is still the time of Grace. God is on the job encouraging; directing and anointing his followers to do a **Mark 16:15**; “*Go... and preach the gospel...*”

Chapter Three -The Last Revival

There are many “*signs of our times*” that pin point the “*latter days*”. I believe that one of the most significant “*signs*” is the “*latter rain*”. (“*Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.*” **Joel 2:23**)

The first revival was a Pentecostal Revival. There would be no church (whatever brand or name) without Pentecost (**Acts 2**). The disciples were truly shaken when Jesus died on the cross and then, three days and three nights later, He suddenly started appearing. Even though He could be identified (Thomas: “...*Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side:...*” **John 20:27**), He obviously looked different. Mary Magdalene: “...*at the sepulcher weeping...saw Jesus standing...supposing him to be the gardener...*” (**John 20:11-18**); the disciples who had gone fishing: “...*, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.*” (**John 21:4**); and the two disciples on the road to Emmaus: “...*Jesus himself drew near,...But their eyes were holden that they should not know him*”. **Luke 24:15,16**) They only recognized him by his actions (**First time**: “...*let down your nets for a draught...and they...filled both the ships...*” **Luke 5:1-11**; **Second time**: “...*, Cast the net on the right side...they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.*” “*Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved (John) saith unto Peter, It is the Lord...*” (**John 21:6,7**) and another example; **First time**: (before the crucifixion) “...*Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and gave it to them, ...*” (**Mark 14:22**); **Second time**: (after his resurrection on the road to Emmaus) “...*he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him...*” **Luke 24:30, 31**).

The Lord could see what could eventuate. Because of their confusion, they could go back to their old life. The example above where Peter said “*I go a fishing*” (**John 21:3**), indicating thereby that he could head back to his old life. Jesus knew that for all Peter’s faults, he was a born leader – the other disciples would follow him wherever he went. In this example seven out of the eleven went fishing; I would imagine some, for the first time in their lives! Peter was the only strength they had, and he was mighty confused and weak thereby. The Lord had said to Peter, prior to His crucifixion, “*Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you...*” (**Luke 22:31**) Satan knew that if he could get at Peter, the whole message of salvation, through Jesus Christ, would collapse. “*But I (Jesus) have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, (which did not happen until Pentecost) strengthen thy brethren.*” (**Luke 22:32**). After his fishing trip, the Lord really laid it on Peter to give up fishing and become a shepherd (“...*, Feed my lambs.*” (**John 21:15**); “...*, Feed my sheep*” (**John 21:16**) and again “...*, Feed my sheep.*” (**John 21:17**) For forty days after the crucifixion the Lord appeared unto them; exhorting and upbraiding them for “...*their unbelief and hardness of heart...*” (**Mark 16:14**). He then returned to heaven on a cloud (**Acts 1:9**). There were still 10 days to run until the fiftieth day (Pentecost) after the Passover (Crucifixion). God knew that Pentecost was going to be the beginning of the Church.

All of the following can be found in Acts 1 and 2. They were heading for Pentecost, but here they had a problem. The disciples had been told to tarry in Jerusalem until they were baptized (filled) with the Holy Spirit. But God required a “*foundation*” for the church of firstly Jesus himself and then of twelve apostles. (“*And*

are built upon the foundation of the apostles...” **Ephesians 2:20**) But just prior to Pentecost they only had eleven Apostles! They were to provide equal testimony to the Lord’s life, ministry, death and resurrection (**Peter: 1 Peter 5:1** “... and a witness of the sufferings of Christ ...” and then **John: 1 John 1:2** “For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness of the sufferings of Christ ...”). How could they now find a twelfth Apostle that would be equal in all ways? Peter (who had finally got his ‘act’ together) gathered the “crème de la crème” of three and half years of Jesus’ ministry – only 120. There were 500 (**1Corinthian 15:6**) at the ascension of Jesus in Galilee just a day or two earlier, so where were the other 380? But God was happy with the 120. A bit like Gideon, who had to reduce his army from 32,000 to 300, before God was happy (**Judges Chapter 7**), so God worked with the very faithful. Peter, quoting David in the Psalms (obviously led of the Lord to bring two totally different psalm scriptures to bear on solving this situation) Firstly **Psalm 69:25** (the removal of Judas) and then **Psalm 109:8** (for the appointment of the new Apostle) Peter sets the outer perimeter in appointing this all important person. Jesus chose the other eleven; how can we get God/Jesus to appoint the last of the Twelve? Peter says he (there never ever was a thought that it was to be a lady – regardless of our opinion in this matter it is very clear that it was only the guys who would be considered) must be equal to the eleven; someone who dates right back to the same time the other Apostles were called. They could not have someone, who said, “Sorry, but I was not around when Jesus said/did such and such”. When you pour the foundation/floor of a building with concrete you would like to do it all at once; you want it to be one solid mass. This man had to be there at the beginning, right back at the time of John the Baptist. Peter made this the all important point in choosing the twelfth. They only found two amongst the 120 that fitted that requirement. This was not to be affected by what anyone thought. Nobody could say, “Ho, I like Bill Bloggs or Charlie Smith”. There was no human influence in the decision. So all the other disciples (except the eleven) either became a follower of Jesus later in the ministry of Jesus or they were female. Just two names: Barsabas and Matthias, came up. Now how do we finish this off? Peter might have said, “Well I think Barsabas would make a good Apostle”, but John might have said’ “No, no; I am all for Matthias”. We need God to choose without man getting in the way. The two names are written on two sticks (lots). They are then cast into some-ones lap. (“*The lot is cast into the lap: but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord.*” **Proverbs 16:33**) These days we would use a hat into which a person, while looking away, would randomly pick out a piece of paper with something written on it or maybe a tumbling barrel would be used and a mechanical arm would randomly pick out a ball with a name/number on it.

Peter prayed “..., *Thou Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men* (remember David versus Eliab in **1 Samuel 15**), *shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,*” In this case one of the Apostles (most probably Peter) while looking away, would take a lot “*out of the lap*”, with a name written on it and then read it out to the waiting group. The name that came up was Matthias; the man chosen of the Lord. God guided the hand of the person picking up the lot. We now have twelve apostles. We are ready for Pentecost. They must all be “*converted*” (remember **Luke 22:32**) at the same time. When Matthias, already chosen to be the twelfth apostle, “*speaks in tongues*” he is totally equal with the other eleven as they also “*speak in other tongues*”. The foundation (**Ephesians 2:20** “*And are built upon the foundation of the apostles ...*”) is poured at the same time.

Why have I detailed this passage? Because Pentecost; the beginning of the church, was not going to happen until “the next step” in God’s Great Plan was

accomplished. The Judas “vacancy” had to be sorted out first. **God/Peter said “... , *this scripture must needs have been fulfilled ...*”** And so it has continued to happen right up to this moment. Back in the sixteenth century when **Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses** on the door of the Church at Wittenberg, God started the reformation. The light of the Gospel had almost gone out up until this time – we now call it the “Dark Ages”. The Bible was only written in a few languages – the original tongues of Hebrew and Greek and the later Latin Vulgate, a language only understood by the priesthood of that time. The church of Martin Luther’s era was full of dogma; rituals and a mixture of pagan worship, which had very little in common with the early church beliefs/practices. From Martin Luther onwards there was a great enlightening and awakening – the Bible was translated into modern languages (German, English, etc), often at the risk of the translator’s life. We could go on picking on many other great events over the last two thousand years, and see where God brought the Calendar up to date.

Approximately one hundred years ago from the writing of this book, God started the “*Latter Rain*”. People, all over the world started to receive the Holy Spirit with the wonderful sign of “*Speaking in other tongues*”. There were always moments down through those 19 hundred years where an individual or group had this wonderful “gift of God”. But the “flood gates” were not opened up and the deluge called the “latter rain of the Holy Ghost”, was not yet poured out all over the earth. History seems to record amazing “infillings” of glory on the early Quakers (quaking under the power of the Holy Ghost); “Holy Rollers”; Huguenots; Martin Luther and his followers; John and Charles Wesley’s revivals. Charles Finney approximately two hundred years ago gives a very vivid description of this experience, later to be followed by such revivals as the Even Robert’s Welsh Revival (short but very exciting). But it was never wide spread or greatly understood. It was never the major part of their revivals. The early church only hung on to the “First Rain” for approximately 100 to 150 years. We see in the Seven Churches of Revelation (approximately 95 AD – approximately 60 years after Pentecost) that the church was in big trouble. Four of the churches had good and bad; two (Smyrna and Philadelphia) had a clean slate, while the last (Laodicea) had nothing right at all and made God feel sick. Once the Apostles, and those who took over directly from them, were dead and gone, the church slid backwards rapidly. The importance of water baptism (and the method) was quickly forsaken and the “Former Rain” was no more; later to be replaced with the ceremony of Confirmation, a very poor substitute for the “*tongues of fire*” experience.

But just on one hundred years ago from the time of writing, the mighty “Latter Rain” began. People all over the World started to receive the wonderful Baptism/Infilling of the Holy Ghost(Spirit) with the only Bible evidence of being filled with God’s Spirit (other than Jesus, who had the sign of the Dove) – “*Speaking in other Tongues*” Even though the “Pentecostal Revival” of the last one hundred years is identified by four major beliefs: Water Baptism; Holy Ghost Baptism; Divine Healing and The Second Coming of Jesus at the end of the Christian Age; the number one identification, by far is “*speaking in other tongues*”, but more on that later.

I feel so privileged to be called of God to be part of this great “Last Revival”. The Pentecostal Revival is as diverse and mixed as Christianity itself – it has gone off in a million directions. I can only speak for myself and this book is mainly about my experiences and beliefs inside the Pentecostal umbrella. Like everybody, somethings I like/believe and some I do not like/believe. Rather that spend time criticizing others, I

thought I would mainly talk about what I have found works best for me as a Pentecostal Preacher.

When will the “Last Revival” finish? When Jesus appears on the clouds at the end of this age; He is coming for the Spirit Filled Church; those “Born Again”. Do not ever depend on just church teaching/doctrine; make sure you “have the experience”.

Chapter Four - The Calling

I was told at an early age that our family was Church of England; an old Anglo-Saxon-Celtic Church. It was the done thing when I was a child, to be sent to Sunday School – it was called the Seaman’s Mission. This was while we were living in Port Lincoln. I really believe that the dream place to be brought up on Earth is on a country farm/station in Australia. I openly admit I am biased. Second would be in a country town. I had to settle for the country town, but one of the most beautiful in all of Australia.

At age seven, my immediate family (Dad, Mum and two brothers [Ben and Mark] – I was in the middle) moved from Adelaide, South Australia to Pt Lincoln, also in SA. My father was a Meat Inspector and he had transferred to this town, which was on the end of a peninsular and thereby surrounded on three sides by the sea. It was medical thinking at the time (1949) that the sea air was beneficial for asthma sufferers. I had it badly, but my younger brother, Mark, was a chronic asthmatic. At the age of twelve, when our family came to the Lord, he was healed by Jesus when he was filled with the Holy Ghost. I was to “grow out of it” at fourteen and it has never returned for either of us ever since. I would never accept it and did all the things I should not do, like running and sport in general, particularly Aussie Rules Football. I would wheeze and pant, but eventually I think I built up strength, and from fourteen onwards, I had better breathing than most and loved distance running in my mid-teens.

Our house was a tiny box, clad in flat asbestos sheeting, with a flat sloping roof. It was built on one acre of land, mainly covered in mallee scrub. All the country around us was just scrub, but our home had a great view of the harbour. My elder brother, Ben, and I just roamed the scrub and fished regularly off the local jetty. Through the eyes of an adult it might not have been the Gold Coast, Qld, but through the eyes of a wee boy, it was heaven. We got to know fishing like the back of our hand; we could just walk on the jetty and tell immediately whether we were going to catch fish or not. In those days (early fifties) the harbour was really busy with freighters and ketches constantly coming and going. Many of the ketches still used sail and mainly moved coastal produce around the local area and then to the “big smoke” – Adelaide. We would just have a hand line – builders twine wrapped around a flat stick, with a piece of nylon line as a trace with three small hooks. Our main bate was “gents” (maggots!). Sounds awful, but very effective. You just had to remember not to lick your fingers while you were fishing! I can still visualize getting up early on a Saturday morning while the rest of the family was asleep; looking out over the harbour with the water just like glass; hopping onto my “grid” (our nick-name for our bikes) and heading down to the Brenans Jetty. I started in a favorite spot, by chucking a few handfuls of “burly” (usually just bread crutched up) to “bring them around”. Then I would sit with my legs over the edge of the jetty, usually right along side a large freighter/ketch and dropping the line straight down. Usually within seconds the main fish we caught would appear – a small herring locally called “Tommy-Ruffs” – and within seconds I would have one, sometimes two and even rarely three, all on at once. I was transported into paradise by the sound of their tails flapping furiously in my sugar bag. I now realize that that was, of course, their death struggle, but as a boy that never registered. Small boys can be cruel, without even knowing that they are – that is just what small boys do (I think!). We used to make our own shanghais (sling-shots). Not a forked stick like most ones I have seen in pictures, but ours were made

from heavy fencing wire. Using pliers and Dad's vice, we molded them into the right shape. The ends of the wire had two eyelets ready to receive the rubber bands. These were old bike tubes cut up with scissors into dozens of little black rubber bands (we never had any money to spend, so we had to make do with what we had at hand). These were looped through each other to make a chain of rubber bands with one pair of ends attached to the wire eyelets. The other ends of course are attached to the pouch. It was not a wise move to leave any shoes or boots around, because the best pouch that we could find, as kids, were the tongue of the shoe or boot. We would just cut that out and it would make an excellent pouch to place the missile, usually a piece of rock off the ground. Lots of the spare rubber bands were looped and stretched over the wire handle, making a very comfortable soft ball in the palm of your hand. These acted also as spares when we broke a band.

I can remember hunting for hours, beautiful little wild birds with our "dinger" (our nick-name for the sling-shot). I can still remember picking up a crumpled little mass of feathers and thinking, "Why did I do that?" But boys just seem to do things like that. Hopefully we grow out of it.

The local rubbish dump was always a place of great interest. We would scrounge through all the rubbish to find bits and pieces, maybe to make a "Billy-cart" or whatever the latest craze was with our mates. One month it would be marbles; then it would be "rubber guns" (little hand-made pistols that fired rubber bands); yo-yos or it would be the beginning of the footy season and all else would be forgotten. Our local Primary School was in sight of the Town Beach/Harbour. It seemed almost like the whole school would migrate down to the beach straight after school in summer and we would stay there until dark, playing and swimming and then ride home on our "grids", with the "wrrrrr" of the little light generator on your front tyre, which would light up the road ahead and your little red tail-light behind. We often would not get home until it was pitch dark. Wow, you would not do that these days, but it was accepted everywhere in my town in the fifties.

Off and on over the years that I lived in Lincoln, I and my elder brother, Ben, attended the Seaman's Mission on a Sunday Morning. It was a bit like the Boy Scouts. Both were Dad and Mum's idea and my brother and I vehemently hated both. With the Boy Scouts we liked the uniform and that is about all. The first test/badge you get is called your "Tenderfoot"; very basic tying knots and Boy Scout Codes – we both went for two years, and could never even get that – our hearts were just not in the Scouts. We were wild kids of the scrub; all that "dib, dib; dob dob" and saluting the flag business really was not for us. Sunday School was no better. We basically hated it – we mainly messed around in the back seat and usually got told to leave the room. We were not one scrap closer to God/salvation. If I was asked if I believed in God, I would say "Yes", but if I was asked if I believed in Evolution I would also say "Yes" – I never saw the conflict between a Creator and things happening by chance.

But all things eventually move on and in our case the family moved back to the "big smoke" (Adelaide) in late 1956. Leaving Port Lincoln also spelt the end for Primary School. Next year was High School. For me it seemed such a wonderful thing – to think I was High School level. I chose a Technical High School, as I was always interested in working with my hands and I dreamed of being a Carpenter. In grade seven (the last year of primary school in my State), we were given a choice of going to the local High School and doing Wood-Work as a subject. I jumped at the opportunity. Our teacher was known to be a real character. His last name started with Mac..... He was known always as Woody-Mac. He was very exacting and often dealt out punishment on those who forgot his rules. If for example you put the hand

plane face downwards, thereby resting it on the blade, instead of on its side, when not in use, then he would give you a very quick “reminder”, not to do that again! Or maybe you dragged the plane back over the wood after shaving off a piece, instead of lifting it skyward on the return journey before shaving off another piece.. These mistakes were quickly dealt with; “Duncan, come here, look at this plane, etc – now bend over the wood working bench”; Crack! Right across your “sit-me-down” (usually with a piece of handy timber). As you stretched across the bench he would say; “Look at the bench”. Crack! “Look at the sky”, which you did as you straightened up holding your rear. Yes, we had corporal punishment in my day. Some of the teachers (particularly Woody-Mac) seem to enjoy the exercise. But for all that, I feel we generally turned out better kids for all the punishment that was dealt out. You had to be wary of all adults. It was quite accepted if any adult caught you misbehaving, he/she would give you a whack. You never told your parents what happened or that you had got “six cuts” (the cane across your finger tips – ooooohhhhh, I can still feel it) by the Head Master or Dad would give you another hiding. I look back now and think every bit of what I copped was ok – I always deserved it (and more).

Mum did most of the discipline in our home. She never hit us around the head, usually on the backside or on the calf of the leg. It hurt, but did no damage; only one’s pride. It took quite a bit to get Dad involved. I can still remember on one occasion Mum saying to Dad, who was sitting at the table reading the paper, “Gordon, look at what the boys (Ben and I) are doing. No response, so we think we can push it a bit further and still not be in danger. Again; “Gordon, look at what the boys are doing.” Still no response. Us boys get a bit bolder and take it just too far. “Gordon,” Bang! (that is the chair hitting the wall, as Dad leaps up in a fury, because his reading has been interrupted). Two little boys scatter, but Dad grabs one; off comes the belt. Problem; the belt is there for a reason, but somehow he always managed to give us a good thrashing; one hand holding a wriggling boy, the other half holding up his trousers and at the same time beating the naughty boy. I repeat, it did us no long term damage and was, overall very character building. Thanks Mum and Dad – you cared!

When I started Technical High School in 1957, I was so excited about everything to do with High School. Firstly having a uniform (we were a pretty scruffy lot in our country Primary School, which did not have a uniform). On the day of enrollment at the Technical High School we were given a test to see how good we were at school-work. I had lost the first couple of years of schooling due to asthma. It showed up in this test. First year Goodwood Boys Technical High school had four classes; 1AB; 1CD; 1EF and 1GH; 1AB obviously being the top class for the brighter kids. I was slotted into 1EF, but I was mad keen and studied like crazy and ended up topping the class easily (it was not all that difficult; many were not very interested in school). So I was then put into 2AB the following year.

Before I move on from 1EF, some pretty big things happened that year that were a basis to coming to the Lord years later. Both Primary School and High School in the fifties had “Religious Instruction” for one hour per week. We all went to “our religion” class. I went to mine; The Church of England. There were about 40 kids in first year High School, in that denomination. The minister was in his seventies and did not have much control over the class. During Primary School, I did not take much notice or pay attention to what was said, but this was High School. I was keen now for anything that happened. In the first religious instruction lesson, the old minister asked how many of the 40 actually went to Church. Only about 3 kids put their hands up. We were then given a little lecture and told we ought to go to church – no reason, just that we ought to go. I took that to heart. He then asked if anyone owned a Bible (all

King James Versions in those days); I think the same 3 put up their hands. The old minister said that anyone who would like to buy one could buy one through him and that it would cost six shillings (quite a lot of money, in those days). Dad came up with the money and I bought a small Bible. Even though I took it regularly to Religious Instruction classes, the old minister did not refer to it all that often. I started attending a local church every Sunday night (Even-Song) over the next year. The average age would have been seventy and I was just fourteen (no one else in my family went). I cannot remember much that I learnt. Nothing was said about “getting saved”; the message I seemed to get was that as long as one attended church now and again; lived a “good” life, then one automatically went to heaven. I became involved in the tennis club and some young peoples activities, but nothing altered much in my life; I was still swearing and carrying on with the other boys (my school was all boys) during the week and was “religious” just for one hour on Sunday nights. The only other thing I remember about going to this church was that one night they had a young people’s activity at someone’s house and it was a “Stereo Night”; just when stereo had been invented. I can still remember that night, as it was the best stereo I have ever heard (until this day); the records were designed to demonstrate the stereo sound – we had aero planes flying though the lounge room; in one side and then out the other and trains whistling down the hall way. I never found the Lord that year; I was never told what the Bible said about how to get saved and how to walk in the Lord. Somewhere that year (I cannot remember when) I just faded away. I did not “back-slide”, as I had not even been given a choice to accept or reject – there was just nothing there.

Two big things happened in 2AB. Firstly I met Freddy Peters. Freddy was German. Freddy’s Dad had fought on the Eastern Front. 1958 was not all that long after WW11. Freddy’s English was not very good and the other kids at first (later he was very popular, particularly when he became a good footballer!) gave him a hard time; some called him a Kraut; a Hun and even a Nazi. He and I became inseparable friends. I met his family and they were very nice, quiet people. We were both in 2AB and very competitive in our class work. We lived in each others “hip pockets” a lot of the time during school lunch time and then on week-ends. We both joined the juniors of the local League Football Club – Sturt. (Freddy was a lot better than I was). The other thing that happened that year (and the next) is that he and I vied for 3rd and 4th in the class. There were lots of boys a lot brighter than us, but we were keen and worked hard. The two boys who vied for 1st and 2nd were just plain bright and also worked hard; we could not get near them. But after being put in the third lowest class in first year, it was very exciting to be in the top class and doing well.

Half way through 1959, in 3AB, Freddy came to me one day and asked me to go to the Billy Graham Campaign. He said this American Evangelist was touring Australia; large city by large city and that thousands of people were “making a decision for Christ” and getting saved. I knew that Freddy was religious, because he had explained he was Lutheran – a well known church of German origin. He was studying the catechism and that it would take two years and he would then be confirmed. I knew he was religious, but the truth is, that he was no different to me – he swore; we “chased girls” (but never caught them!) together. We read literature that was not all that savory (pretty mild compared with today), etc. I do not know why I never saw the hypocrisy of being totally worldly during the week, but being able to put on a sanctimonious religious burst for one hour on Sunday.

I asked him the details of this Campaign. He said there were many thousands there and that the preacher was very good and that at the end of the evening people were asked out the front to “make a decision for Christ” and that thousands streamed

out the front to do just that. I was a bit scared about “going out the front” and asked him if I had to do that – he assured me I did not have to, if I did not want to take such a step. He explained that it was the last night of the Campaign (he had gone every night – his church was involved – but he had finally plucked up the courage to invite his best friend on the last night!).

I did not actually go with Freddy. I went home and said to Dad and Mum; “I am going to the Billy Graham Campaign. Dad said; “Okay, I will come with you”; so just Dad and I went. It was very impressive, with a huge crowd filling the arena, at the Adelaide Show Grounds. I heard for the first time some of what God required of me to be saved. I did not even know that I had to do certain things. The word of the night was “repent”. I came to realize later that this word meant so much more in the Bible than was explained that night, but that was for another time. At the end of the preaching, people were invited out the front to “make their decision for Christ”. People started streaming out all around us. I wanted to go, but being basically shy, I was very conscious of my Dad along side me. The problem was that Dad was even shyer than I was and he was very conscious of my presence. So neither of us did anything that night. If it had been the first night, I am sure I would have gone every night. Billy Graham became my hero over the next few months and whenever a church showed one of his films I would attend. He was on the radio every night during that time.

When we got home we were both full of the experience; so our whole family listened each evening to Billy preaching on the radio (television had only just arrived in our city a couple of years before that and we certainly could not afford one, so every home had a radio in those days). The Evangelist told us to “Repent”, but at the same time sent us back to our old dead religion/church that had never done anything for us – later I came to realize what repentance really meant and like the Apostle Paul came to “...*count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, ...*” (**Philippians 3:8**)

We did not know which church to go to, but my mother spoke to a lady over the front fence one day and she invited us to the Unley Park Baptist Church, which believed in Repentance and Baptism by full immersion. Of course that is a phrase we use to distinguish between Bible Baptism and the man made, unscriptural method, of “infant (or for that matter adult) sprinkling” practiced in many of the old, main-line churches. Because the Greek word for baptism actually means “to plunge; to overwhelm” – it was used in Ancient Greece for the dying trade, where the garment had to be repeatedly plunged into the dye to get the garment evenly dyed. So when we say “Baptized by full immersion”, we are just repeating ourselves: “immersion, immersion”. It is also interesting to note that in the original Dutch translation of the Bible it called John the Baptist, “John the Dipper” (in Dutch of course)

So we started to attend this particular church with Mrs. Evans and her two teenage children – a boy and a girl (I cannot remember their names). I personally became very involved; attending young people’s activities on Saturday night at the church and then up to five meetings on a Sunday – pre church prayer meeting; church; teenage Sunday School in the afternoon; evening church and then later still, some young peoples activity. Freddy did not try to make me come to his church; he was happy that we had found a church.

One Sunday they had an Australian “Evangelist”, from the Baptist Church, come and preach. He was a better preacher than the local minister (which was not difficult!), and we decided to finally go to the front of the church one evening, at the

time of the altar call, and “give our hearts to Jesus” and “make a decision for Christ”. Dad, Mum, myself and my younger brother, Mark (Ben was not interested and was away anyway as a rookie in the Royal Australian Air Force) all went out the front and stood right in front of the minister’s wife, who was part of the adult choir, just below the rostrum. We were taken out the back of the church by “councilors”. I was just seventeen at the time and the man I had was “very elderly” (about my age at present!). I do not think he had ever done anything like that before (counseling), because his hands were shaking and he was generally very nervous. I too was nervous. He finally said; “Would you like to say a prayer?” Now I thought he would do the praying, but I agreed and mumbled out some sort of prayer. He then grabbed me by the hand and vigorously shook it and said; “You are now gloriously saved!”

I was instantly very disappointed. Had this been all it was about? From the big Campaign through all the church meetings; all the soul searching and now finally the big “make a decision for Christ”. I felt nothing, because nothing happened. Later I could not find anywhere in the Bible where it told me to “make a decision for Christ” or to “give my heart to Jesus”. I walked back around to the front of the church with Mrs. Evans’ teenage son and asked him; “What about Water Baptism?” During the few months we had been attending they had had one special Sunday for Baptisms; they “saved” them up. This was the only time the minister had worn some sort of religious garments – he was in a black rig-out. They had opened up the middle of the stage, where there was hidden a large Baptism Tank. Each candidate wore white. They would stand in the tank with their arms crossed over their chest and the minister then lowered them backwards into the water, after asking them to confess their faith in God/Jesus. Baptism did not seem very important to this particular church; there was no urgency; no on the spot (Cornelius and his household – **Acts 10:4, 48**); no middle of the night (the Jailer – **Acts 16:33**); no moment like this moment; “...*See, here is water; what doth hinder...*” (**Acts 8:36-38**)

Now his answer was just his answer and could not be said to be the opinion of the whole church/organization. He said; “Well, you really need to prove your loyalty to the church and then get baptized; maybe in a couple of years time.” So that was that. I never ever did “prove my loyalty to that church” and never ever got baptized there, even though it was a “Baptist” church! No body in that church ever talked to us about getting baptized – it just was not important.

Next Sunday as we were leaving the church (we had been coming for many months) the minister’s wife said to me, as I shook her hand going out at the front door after the morning service, (which I had done many times before); “You are new here!” It was not even a question; it was a statement. I had stood right in front of her the previous Sunday “giving my heart to Jesus”. It was very disappointing.

My life really did not change; I was still swearing and carrying on with the boys at school. I never told anybody about my “wonderful conversion”, because I never had one. About this time I came home from school one afternoon and as I rode my bicycle down the driveway I noticed Barend (chapter one) standing at the front door talking to my mother. I loved Barend from the days we had lived in Port Lincoln. During our friendship over those years, we boys in particular became very attached to him. He was able to really relate to us. When he became a carpenter, he was very strong and he used to grab hold of the lintel on top of the door and do chin-ups with all his muscles bulging. I used to say to myself; “When I grow up I want to be like Barend”. (I never was, even though I learned the building trade). As I walked up to the front door Mum said; “Guess what, I have found a new religion!”. God was not yet finished with us – He was on the job, sending us a “Peter” (**Acts 10:5**) – in our

case Barend. Someone faithful who “...*shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.*” (v6). Barend was also our “Aquila and Priscilla” who would “...*expound...the way of God more perfectly...*” **Acts18:26**. God is relentless in pursuing the unsaved.

Chapter Five – The Wanderer’s Race

In 1994 my wife (Hellen) and I visited the land of Israel. I will not say Modern Israel, because there is so much of Israel that is very ancient. We had a few friends and relatives, of course, which advised us not to go because of the danger. A fortnight before we arrived there, a bus was blown-up, killing 22. That happened in Tel Aviv, our arrival destination). The day we left, three young Israeli soldiers were killed at a check-point into the Gaza Strip by a kamikaze cyclist. So the danger was real, but, we personally did not see any trouble. We were there for 10 days and it just flew – we loved every minute of that time. It felt like we had jumped into a time-machine and gone back to the days of Jesus and even further back to Abraham; Isaac and Jacob.

One of the most exciting stories of the Bible is God’s unique relationship with the Children of Israel. While we toured Israel in our wee hire car, we met some people from very ancient tribes; the Jews; the Arabs and one man who said he was Druze. They date back thousands of years. Some people in the world of Christendom believe that the modern Jew is ancient Israel. If you ask any Jew, he/she will explain that they are only a remnant of a remnant of two of the ancient tribes of Israel – Judah and Benjamin. Around 721BC the Northern Ten-tribed House of Israel was over-run by the Assyrians and scattered north and other people from other countries were brought in, who were not of Israel, to occupy northern Israel (later to be known as Samaritans).

What happened to the 10 tribes and the rest of Judah and Benjamin? God said to Abraham that; “...*I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. ...thy name shall be Abraham (Hebrew: ‘a multitude of nations’), for a father of many nations have I made thee. ... I will make thee exceeding fruitful ...kings will come out of thee. ..my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant...*” (**Genesis 17:1-27**) This sounds pretty long term. Where are the lost tribes today? Have they vanished and disappeared into the nations? Has God broken his covenant with Abraham? Or is there modern day evidence of where these people are?

Because of the British Israel Federation beliefs, some extreme, like the African Americans are described in the Bible [their belief, not mine!] as the “beast of the field”, people have “thrown out the baby with the bathwater”. Therefore when the BI (as they are commonly called) push the thought of locating these tribes in Scandinavia; Britain and from there to the USA; Canada; South Africa; Australia and New Zealand in particular, many can only see their other extreme beliefs. Therefore they reject some wonderful evidence, that there is a fulfillment of the promises to Abraham and David in our modern world. People only see “White racism”, “Neo-Nazism” and “Saved by Birth” doctrines. But do we totally forget the promises of God to both Abraham and David, because of some crack-pot beliefs?

I have already stated (on the cover) I am a Pentecostal. Within Pentecost there are some amazing and alarming extremes. Some people take Mark 16 literally, while ignoring other scriptures to balance the equation, and have their meetings full of snakes and often deliberately “*temp*” (**Matthew 4:7**) the Lord. Do I reject the great Pentecostal Movement because of these crack-pots? Of course not! Some parts of Pentecost have extreme views on demons; meetings totally out of order (like an Irish Parliament – I might get into trouble here, if I do not look out!). I feel that I am still a true Pentecostal, even though many under the Pentecostal umbrella let the side down badly and often give this great work of God, a bad name.

I think some folk have looked at the extremes of the “Lost Tribes of Israel” movement and have then thrown out all of God’s wonderful promises to Abraham and David. That is not wise. My question is, that if it is not the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people, then who is it? It is no good saying it is not important, because it is important. If God can break a covenant (promise) with Abraham and he is not “*the father of a multitude of nations*” then He can break a promise to us. If the Throne of David (“...*But my mercy shall not depart from him (David) ...thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.*” **1 Samuel 7:15-16**) does not have a descendant on the throne today somewhere on the earth, then God must be unreliable, which, of course, He is not. God cannot break any of his promises. If Abraham was to wander the earth today, he should be able to find his descendants: he should be able to find a “*multitude of nations*” that are a blessed people. (“*And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee; and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.*” **Genesis 12:3**). And if David should also wander along with Abraham he should be able to see a throne identified by the *Lion and the Unicorn* (**Numbers 24:8,9**); there should be some evidence of the *Union of Jacob* (Union Jack) (**Ezekiel 37:15-19** “...*take thee one stick, and write, For Judah* (Judah and Benjamin)...*take another stick...*, *For Joseph* (for the other 10 tribes) ...*And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.*”), the people he (David) once reigned over approximately 1000BC.



Royal British Coat of Arms



Union Jack (Union of Jacob)

Let us talk about Joseph. Many wrongly feel that the only fulfillment of the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and later to David, are all fulfilled in Jesus and in Christianity. He descended from all of them and the most wonderful “seed” from Abraham is certainly Jesus Christ. We read in **Galatians 3:16** “*Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*” And again, referring to Jesus as one of David’s descendants, in **Revelation 5:5** “*...behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed...*” But to say this is the only fulfillment of the promises to Abraham and David is to ignore other scriptures. Some say that the only fulfillment of the “seed” are Christians. Firstly, the Jews (House of Judah) as a nation rejected Christ. The Jews, as a nation, to this day, have rejected Christianity and practice Judaism and still live under the Old Testament. If the fulfilled “seed” was the spread of Christianity throughout the world, then it certainly was not through the Tribe of Judah. Also, the promises to Abraham of being “*a multitude of nations*” (the Hebrew meaning of the name “Abraham”) is not an accurate description of Christianity. “*...for a father of many nations have I made thee.*” (**Genesis 17:5**). Also in **verse 8** the “seed” of Abraham was promised Palestine as their home; “*And I will give unto thee and to thy seed after thee ... all the land of Canaan...*” Christianity encompasses all the nations of the world; “*...and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*” (**Acts 1:8**) and is not confined to just Palestine.

Meanwhile back with Joseph. Jesus is certainly not a descendant of Joseph. Jacob had twelve sons. One of those sons was Judah. Another was Joseph. Through the amazing story of Tamar, (**Genesis 38**) Jesus was not to be a descendant of Judah’s first born (Er), but through the child of Er’s widow, Tamar. Pharez, Joseph’s nephew, was to be one of the great forefathers of Jesus. So Joseph is not a forefather of Jesus. So what do we do with the wonderful Birthright promises that came through to Joseph? The Birthright story is an amazing story in its own right.

The Birthright (First-Born) child (son) of a family was very privileged. But Abraham’s First Born was particularly privileged, because of the blessings of God to the Birthright son. (**Genesis 17:18, 19** “*And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee! And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bare thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant and with his seed after him*”.) But from Isaac to Ephraim, when you follow the Birthright, not one of the actual First Born died with the Birthright (Ishmael; Esau; Rueben and Manasseh all missed out). Jesus was not born of the Birthright tribe (Ephraim): he was born of the Royal Tribe of Judah. Jesus had his “own” special Birthright; he was the direct Son of God through the Holy Ghost! (**Matthew 3:17** “*And a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*”)

Why did Jacob fight so hard to gain the Birthright from his brother Esau? (**Genesis 25:29-34** “*...Sell me this day thy birthright...*” and again in **Genesis 27:1-41** “*...Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing...*”) The answer is very simple; that whoever had the Birthright, would be “*the father of a multitude of nations*” and have God’s special attention as a Commonwealth of Nations. So this Birthright did not pass to Reuben (the First Born) or to Judah (the Royal Tribe – **Genesis 49:8-12** “*...The scepter shall not depart from Judah ...*”), but would pass to that very special person; Joseph, and then from Joseph to Ephraim (**Genesis 48:5-22** “*...And Israel (Jacob) stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim’s head...*”)

I want you to particularly look at what was prophesied over the wee lad Ephraim. “*And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; (Manasseh) put thy right hand upon his head. And his father (Jacob) refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become great (to be later identified as representing the USA): but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed (Ephraim’s descendants) shall become a multitude of nations.*” (**Genesis 48:18, 19**)

So this is not referring, as some folk falsely believe, to the Jews. The Jews are descendants of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin and a portion of the tribe of Levi. You would never describe modern Jewry as a “*multitude of nations*”. They are spread in many nations and have one wee nation in the land of Palestine – The Modern Nation of Israel. They are certainly part of God’s great plan, but the Birthright Blessings did not pass to them. Also this is not referring to the “seed”, Jesus, who was to be born of the tribe of Judah. It cannot be misconstrued to refer to Christianity through the House of Judah.

The descendants of Ephraim, came in later times, to represent all the 10 tribed house of the Northern Kingdom (there are many references, but see **Hosea 5:1-15** and **Hosea 6:4** “*O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? (referring to the 10 Tribed House of Israel) O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? (referring to the 2 Tribed House of Judah)...*”). The 10 Tribes were taken captive (as stated above), after falling away from God, by the Assyrians around 721BC and were scattered North. Later the House of Judah, after they also forsook God, was taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar, who came to the throne in 604BC, of the Babylonian Kingdom. Some of the Jews (as they came to be known) returned to Palestine (around 50,000) under Ezra and Nehemiah, but the rest were also scattered among the nations. These scattered people are referred to in the opening words of the Book of James and of 1 Peter. “*James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered abroad, greetings*” (**James 1:1**) and “*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers [Strong’s Concordance: - ‘a resident foreigner; pilgrim’] scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia...*” (**1 Peter 1:1**)

So the descendants of the Northern House of Israel, now known as Ephraim, were to become a “multitude of nations”. It stands to reason, that that would not be fulfilled in the wee land of Palestine. They just would not fit! With a present world population heading for 7 billion, we must be at least talking Hundreds of Millions of descendants of Ephraim, in many nations, to even rate as “multitudes”? Modern Israel, before the 6 Day War of 1967, was approximately 20,700 square kilometers and after, with the annexed territories [West Bank, Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Gaza] another approximate 7,500 square kilometers; in total around 28,000 square kilometers. Compare that with the following countries: Australia – 7,692,024 square kilometers! [Tasmania, the smallest State – 68, 401 square kilometers, is more than double the size of Israel!]; United Kingdom – 244,100 square kilometers; approximately 10 times larger than Modern Israel. The few million (just over 6,000,000) Jews and Palestinians, who live in Palestine today, would certainly not be described as in **Genesis 15:5** “... Look now toward heaven, and tell (count) **the stars**, if thou be able to number them: ...so shall thy seed be...” or in **Genesis 32:12** “...make thy seed as **the sand** of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude...” or again in **Genesis 28:14** “ And thy seed shall be as **the dust** of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the **west**, and to the **east**, and to the **north**, and to the **south**: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed”.

[**Note:** At the time of the first revision of this wee book, The Commonwealth Games are in progress in Melbourne, Australia {March, 2006}. Listening to the commentary at the Opening Ceremony, the commentators made the following statements: “There are 71 nations competing here in Melbourne. The Queen of England is the head of a Commonwealth of Nations that covers **one third of the world’s population**”. Comment: Ephraim, who came to represent the 10 tribed Northern House of Israel in Bible days, now represents many peoples, of all races and colours. Countries take it as a great honour to be a member of the British Commonwealth. Truly they have become a “*multitude of nations*”.]

There is one final point to make with the descendants of the House of Ephraim, and that is relating to the Birthright. We just read above that “...*in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed*” and I would now like to bring a connection with the descendants of Ephraim and Christianity. Is there any greater blessing than to be converted and to become a Christian? If there is, I have never heard of it. As I said previously, the House of Judah (as a whole) has not entered into that “blessing”: they are bound under the Old Testament Law – they practice Judaism. They have rejected Christ. They are certainly not a blessing to the families of the earth when it comes to conversion. They falsely tell everyone that Jesus was not the Messiah.

But what happened to the descendants of the House of Ephraim, the Birthright people? They spread out west, east, north and lastly, south (The Great South Land of the Holy Spirit – Terra Australis!) and became a “multitude of nations”. The descendants of Ephraim (10 tribed Israel) lost all contact with their roots back in Palestine, but later became the main “exporters” of Christianity. The Great Latter Rain of the Holy Spirit has been mainly in the “multitude of nations” and the USA, filled by the descendants of the House of Ephraim and Manasseh. History now records the modern Pentecostal Revival started in Topeka, Kansas, USA on the 1st of January 1900, when Agnes Ozman, a Bible Student under Charles Fox Parham, received the Holy Spirit, with the sign of “*speaking in other tongues*” [**Acts 2**], after searching the Scriptures on how to be Spirit Filled. It then spread to the Azusa Street Revival under William J Seymour and then to the world. I believe that this is the greater fulfillment of how Abraham and his descendants would be a blessing to all the nations of the earth.

I find that people interested in Bible Prophecy, who cannot identify the nations of the world, end up in a real mess; they do not know really what is going on and rely heavily on their own imagination. Why are the main friends of the modern nation, Israel the USA; Britain; Canada; South Africa; Australia and New Zealand? Could it be that they are all (in the main) descendants of that man Abraham, through the “child of promise”, Isaac? Do we now have a world wide Israel spread over “many nations”? These nations seem to always stick together. I am still amazed that many Christians refer to the Jews as Israel. They are only a small part of Israel; I will admit (happily) a very import part of Israel, but still only a part.

Their return to “Palestine” (from the word ‘Philistine’) was part of God’s great plan – the mighty “*7 times punishment*” of **Leviticus 26:18** had to be fulfilled. Very briefly a “time” in Bible Prophecy was a complete circle/cycle; 360 degrees; 360 days; 360 prophetic years. Therefore, this is a period of $7 \times 360 = 2,520$ prophetic years. When did the “*7 times punishment*” start. It is far too simple to give just one set of dates; but the major one is from the fall of Judah in the days of Jeremiah the Prophet and Zedekiah the last king of Judah (**Jeremiah chapter 52**). The kingdom

that “started” the punishment was the Babylonian. But it was not just the Kingdom; it was a particular king – Nebuchadnezzar. God told Nebuchadnezzar (via Daniel via Nebuchadnezzar’s dream); “...*Thou are this head of Gold.*” (**Daniel 2:38**). This was the top of the great image in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, which represented the many kingdoms that would come one after another. Babylon; Medo/Persian; Greek; Roman; etc.

Nebuchadnezzar came to the throne in 604/5 BC (as mentioned above). With a simple bit of arithmetic by adding the 2,520 year prophecy, we come to the latter part of the First World War. Palestine had always been occupied by some foreign power during this time. The Jews refer to the “Diaspora” (the dispersion of the House of Judah later known as “Jews”) from this time – the actual Temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar’s army in 587/6 BC, but he had Israel in bondage well before that.

My father (Alfred Gordon Duncan) was born in 1902. When dad was fourteen (1916), he went to a Christian Youth Camp of some sort. He related years later; after we came to the Lord, that he distinctly remembered they had a preacher at that camp that used the Seven Times Punishment Prophecy and the dates above and said to the young people present; “Next year (1917) Jerusalem will be delivered and given back to the Jews”. At that time the Allied Forces (The Lost Tribes of Israel!) were a long way from the Victory that was to come in 1918. They had taken a great drumming at Gallipoli, but nations such as Australia and New Zealand (the ANZACS) had come of age.

During late 1917 the Allied forces under General Allenby (Allenby meant “Prophet of God” to the Turks) was bogged down trying to take the “Wells of Beersheba” (dug by Abraham and named by him: **Beer-sheba “the well of the oath”**), which they desperately needed to water their horses (Australian Light Horse included) and themselves. They were heading for Jerusalem, but they could not advance until they took these famous wells on the Southern end of Israel. A 2,520 year old prophecy hung in the balance – would it be fulfilled? **The year had to be 1917!** It was the 31st of October 1917. There were only two months left to fulfill this great prophecy. The Allies knew that they had to achieve their goal to get water that day (31st of October 1917) or retreat. They fought all day; the Brits; the Kiwis and the Aussies. They were very close to their goal, but needed a final “miracle” to achieve that goal. It was 4.30pm and the light was about to fade. The 4th Australian Light Horse (not cavalry but mounted infantry – they usually rode to just outside firing range; dismounted and then advanced on foot, like ordinary infantry) lined up in a wadi. The Aussie General had approached the British High Command and told them he felt the Australian Light Horse could take the wells. When they were told to charge, they advanced firstly at a trot and then into a gallop and swep, on horse-back, right over the Turks positions– the Turks were taken completely by surprise – they expected them to dismount and advance on foot, as they had previously done! The 4th rode into Victory and History – the last great cavalry charge. The road to Jerusalem was open as the Turks fell back. (Do you think there is a bit of Aussie pride, when I relate that account?)

The Turks were formidable fighters – we had found that out at Gallipoli! There was only two months left for the prophecy to be fulfilled. From 1187AD Jerusalem had been under (with few exceptions) Muslim control. It was time for a wonderful scripture to “speak” – **Habakkuk 2:3**; “*For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie, though it tarry, wait for it; because it shall surely come, it will not tarry.*” This wonderful scripture applies to many prophecies, but the one I wish to apply it to now is **Isaiah 31:5**; “*As birds*

flying, so shall the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.”

When reading the life story of “Laurence of Arabia” in “*The Boy’s life of Colonel Lawrence*” by Lowell Thomas (circa 1960) it was amazing how many times the small bi/tri planes were referred to, in the book, as “Devil Birds; Fighting Swallows; War Birds and Great Birds” by the inhabitants of Palestine in 1917.

History records that Jerusalem was taken without firing a shot. The 14th Bombing Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps (later Royal Air Force) dropped “surrender demand” leaflets over Jerusalem. The following is a quote from “Documents of Destiny” by F. Wallace Connon (1958), page 18: “That this event was considered in official circles to be the fulfillment of the prophecy just quoted is shown by the fact that when the 14th Bombing Squadron was again sent to Palestine in 1938 it was given a new badge bearing the motto, ‘*I spread my wings, and keep my promise*’, and when the War Office was asked the meaning of this motto, the written reply was to the effect that as the 14th Bombing Squadron relieved Jerusalem it was considered appropriate.”



(Arabic script – motto chosen for the task) *‘I spread my wings and keep my promise’*

The Turks fled the city without a fight. The Mayor of Jerusalem, bearing a white flag, surrendered to the British forces. The date: December 8th 1917 (cutting it fine?). General Allenby, like Jesus Christ before him, walked into the surrendered city. Jerusalem for the first time in 2,520 years, was in “Israelite” hands (descendants of the “lost tribes” of Jacob) . The scripture for reading on the day (8th December 1917), in the English Prayer Book of Edward VI 1552, was **Isaiah 31:5!** Amazing? But, of course; is not everything God does amazing? It is like God hovers over “history in the making” to make sure it covers all His great prophecies/promises. So, as the wonderful scripture of **Isaiah 31:5** prophesied, Jerusalem was delivered “*as birds flying* (the 14th Bomber Squadron) – God defended Jerusalem; God preserved

Jerusalem and a 2,520 year old prophecy was fulfilled that year! On the 2nd of November 1917, there was a letter from the English Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour, to Lord Rothschild, offering Israel as a home to the modern Jew.

Before I leave this huge and amazing subject, I must mention the Stone of Destiny



Stone of Destiny



Edward's Throne

The Celtic name of the stone now in the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey is **Lia Fail**, "the speaking stone",

One of the most exciting books I have ever read is "The Taking of the Stone of Destiny" by Ian Hamilton QC. This is the story of how Ian, at the age of 25, stole the Stone from Westminster Abbey on Christmas Eve, 1950. I would like to quote a wee bit of history from that book (on page 11): "She (Ian's mother) told me how the Stone had been taken to London during these wars and never returned. She told me the older stories of how it had been brought to Argyll before the time of Saint Columba, and how since then every King of Scotland had been crowned sitting on it, until it was carried south during Edward 1st invasion of 1296. 'And there have been among us one hundred and ten kings, and not one foreign born among them,' she said, quoting unconsciously and accurately from the Declaration of Arbroath of 1320. And before it was brought to Scotland, the story went on; the Scottish people had carried it with them as they migrated across Europe. All migrations take place westwards, she said, and the Celtic peoples thought so much of the Stone that they carried it with them as the symbol of their nationality wherever they went" End Quote.

This description is quite different to the common thought in Ireland, that it was brought to Ireland hundreds of years BC by Jeremiah the prophet. The "middle bit" between the House of Israel migrating eventually to the "isles afar off" (**Jeremiah 31:10**

"Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.") is lost in ancient history – the details are just not there. So why do I believe this whole story so much? I'm not sure how it all happened "in the middle", but what I do know is the original promises/prophecies, given to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and later to King David, have all been fulfilled in our modern British Empire and the United States of America.

We do not have a blow by blow record of how they got there, but all we know is they did and match the Bible description of Israel in the "last days". The following is an ancient saying that has traveled with the Stone of Destiny:

'Unless the fates are faithless grown,

And Prophet's voice be vain,

Where'er is found this Sacred Stone,

The wanderer's race shall reign.'

UPDATE: The Stone of Destiny

On St Andrews Day, 30th November 1996, Scotland's coronation stone, the Stone of Destiny, was installed in Edinburgh Castle. About 10,000 people lined the Royal Mile to watch the procession of dignitaries and troops escort the stone from Holyrood Palace to the castle. In a service at St Giles cathedral the Church of Scotland Moderator, the Right Reverend John MacIndoe, formally accepted the stone's return saying it would "strengthen the proud distinctiveness of the people of Scotland". Once inside the castle the stone was laid on an oak table before the grand fireplace of the early 16th century Great Hall. The Scottish Secretary of State Michael Forsyth ceremoniously received it from Prince Andrew, who was representing the Queen.

Outside the castle, under clear blue skies, a twenty-one gun salute was fired from the Half-Moon Battery, echoed by HMS Newcastle lying anchored off Leith harbour in the Firth of Forth. When asked of an official why the Scottish flag, the Saltire (St Andrews Cross) was not flying at the highest point. He replied that because Prince Andrew, (second son of the Queen) was inside, the flag of the United Kingdom, the Union Jack, had to fly on top

There is a statement I once read about the Antiquities of Great Britain and they stated that this old rough stone, with two metal rings embedded in it (for carrying on a pole on two person's shoulders) was the most precious antiquity in the whole kingdom and upon which the whole security of the empire depended. Where did it come from? Did Jeremiah the Prophet bring it with the King's daughters to Ireland, as depicted on the 1953 medallion given to the children of the Empire at the time of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation? The medallion on the reverse depicts a royal crown, sitting on a cushion, riding in an ancient Phoenician type ship, sailing from the Middle-East westwards.



Coronation Medal – June 2nd 1953.



The Flags of the Commonwealth of Great Britain



The British Lion



Ollamh Fodhla known as the “Tomb of Jeremiah”

On Christmas Eve 1950 when this famous stone was stolen (as mentioned above) by some young patriotic Scotsmen and smuggled, in the back seat of a car, into Scotland – they believed it was theirs to reclaim. When Edward 1 (Longshanks) seized the Stone of Jacob (as it is also known referring to the “Pillow” of **Genesis 28:10-22** “... and took the stone that he (Jacob) had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon (anointed) the top of it...”) in 1296 AD, he took it to London. It sat, until recent times, in the Edwardian Chair (Throne), which is in Westminster Abbey. When the King of England, George VI, became ill through worry of what had happened to the Stone; (he thought it was a bad omen for the throne and the Empire), the young men gave it up. Recently the Scots have been able to have it “legally” back in Scotland, on the understanding that whenever a person is to become King or Queen of Great Britain, the Stone will be sent back; placed in the Edwardian Chair, so that the new monarch can sit directly on it and be thereby crowned.

It is as though the “lost tribes”, as they came into the “isles afar off” (as mentioned above in **Jeremiah 31:10**) knew they had to crown their Kings and Queens next to a stone (**11 Kings 11:12-14** “..brought forth the king’s son, and put the crown upon him ...and anointed him...and said, God save the king...when she (Athaliah the wicked queen) looked, behold, **the king stood by a pillar, as the manner was ...**”). Prior to Edward 1 seizing the Stone of Destiny in 1296 AD, many kings (in England) had already been crowned adjacent to a local rock – you can still see it in London, in Kingston (King’s Stone!). That stone is on Public Display.

A scripture in **Ezekiel 21:27** says “I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he (Jesus Christ as “...King of Kings and Lord of Lords...” – **Revelation 19:16**) come whose right it is; and I will give it him.” The Throne of David went from the Middle East to Ireland via Jeremiah (1st overturn); from Ireland to Scotland (2nd overturn) and then from Scotland to England (3rd overturn).



Royal palace at Tara, Ireland, Capital of Brega. (The first “overturn” from the Land of Palestine to Ireland of the “Stone of Destiny”. Taken there by the Prophet Jeremiah.)

Origins (From Wikipedia – Online free Encyclopedia)

“The origin of the name Fergusson or Ferguson, "son of Fergus" (MacFhearguis in Gaelic), is shrouded by the mists of time. Medieval historians recorded a tradition that the founder of Scotland's monarchy was a Fergus who lived in Ireland about 300 B.C. Historical research dating from the 13th century confirms that by 500 A.D. the Scots under King Fergus MOR had left Northern Ireland and became established in Dál Riata, now Argyll. From Fergus MOR, with a few early exceptions, descend all subsequent kings and queens of the Scots, including the present Queen of Britain. St. Columba of Iona (6th century A.D.) was a scion of Fergus MOR's royal line.”



**Scone Palace, Fife, Scotland (Original Scottish home of the Stone of Destiny)
the second “overturn” from Ireland to Scotland with King Fergus.**



The Coronation of the Queen, who is seated directly on the Stone of Destiny, in the Edwardian Coronation Chair in Westminster Abby, London. The last “overturn”, to England by Edward the 1st (“Longshanks”).

I realize as I write on this great subject, I can only scratch the surface. I would love to finish by talking about the “great nation” of **Genesis 48:19** (“...*he (Manasseh) shall also become a great people*”...). Let us have a quick look at the story of the United State of America.

Manasseh became the 13th tribe, once the tribe of Joseph broke into two tribes – Ephraim and Manasseh. In the land of Palestine, Manasseh divided into two major areas (one on each side of the Jordan River), because they were a “Great People”. **(Joshua 17:17)** In **Joshua 17:1-18** we have the inheritance details of the tribe of Manasseh. They ended up with two major areas, as described in verse 5 “*And there fell ten portions to Manasseh, beside the land of Gilead and Bashan, which were on the other side Jordan.*”

The “Pilgrim Father’s” found their home in England/Netherlands too restrictive and chose to immigrate to the New World on board the Mayflower. They arrived in North America in 1620. That tiny beginning has now developed into the great superpower – United States.

We identify USA with the 13th Tribe Manasseh. Let us have a look at the Presidential Seal of the United State of America:



13 Shield Stripes; 13 Stars; 13 Planets; 13 arrows; 13 Leaves & 13 Berries on the Olive Branch and 13 letters in the Latin Motto (E Pluribus Unum – “Out of many, One”)

Many other nations desired the countries that God had set aside for the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, particularly those who were for Ephraim and Manasseh. At times, during recent history, it seemed as though they would succeed. But God preserved “His Inheritance” for Israel. It seemed for a time that the French would claim sovereignty over part of Canada, but the Battle of Quebec was won between the 13th to the 18th of September 1759 by the British forces. The British, under General James Wolfe (who died at the point of victory) accepted the surrender of the city of Quebec, and the French in Canada, had to accept British Sovereignty.



The Landing of the British forces at Quebec

Even in New Zealand, a similar, but much smaller event, awaited some French immigrants. In 1838, French whalers signed an agreement with the local Maoris in Akaroa Harbour in the South Island. They then returned to France and shortly after, with a ship full of immigrants, set sail to claim that region for France. While they were on the high seas, the Treaty of Waitangi was signed during 1840 by over 500 chiefs, including the two local chiefs in Akaroa, for the whole of New Zealand. This Treaty was between all the Maori population of New Zealand and Queen Victoria of the British Empire. When the French settlers arrived in August 1840, they found they were too late – New Zealand was a British Colony. The British Authorities in New Zealand said they would acknowledge the original agreement signed between the French and the local Maori tribe in Akaroa Harbour, on one condition. The French settlers must come under British Sovereignty. They had come a long way, so they agreed and the rest is history. The following is an extract from the Akaroa Civic Trust, New Zealand:-

Significant Historic Events

"The settlement of Takapuneke was sacked. Partly as a result of this massacre, an official British Resident, James Busby, was sent to New Zealand in an effort to stop such atrocities. The events at Takapuneke thus led directly to the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Then, in 1838 a French whaler, Captain Langlois decided that Akaroa would make a good settlement to service the whaling ships, and "purchased" the Peninsula in a dubious land deal with the local Maori. He returned to France, floated the Nanto-Bordelaise company, and sail for New Zealand with a group of French and German families aboard the ship *Comte de Paris*, with the intention of forming a French colony on a French South Island of New Zealand.

However, by the time Langlois and his colonists arrived at Banks Peninsula in August 1840, the Treaty of Waitangi had already been signed (the signatories including two chiefs at Akaroa in May) and New Zealand's first Governor, Hobson, had declared sovereignty over the whole of New Zealand. On hearing of the French plan for colonization, Hobson quickly dispatched the *HMS Britomart* from the Bay of Islands (North Island) to Akaroa with police magistrates on board. While Langlois and his colonists sheltered from unfavorable winds at Pigeon Bay on the other side of the Peninsula, the British flag was raised at Greens point between Akaroa and Takapuneke and courts of law convened to assert British sovereignty over the South Island.

European Settlement

The French settlers stayed on, making Akaroa the first colonial settlement in New Zealand's South Island, but their colony was not to be French. Nevertheless, the French left a mark on Akaroa, laying out its charming narrow streets and planting many walnut trees and roses whose descendants survives through to today."



Akaroa Harbour Today

One final example of God's protection for the latter day preservation of the "promised lands" allotted to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. This is the story of the "trade" between the Dutch and the British of two small Islands. Firstly, who has heard of the tiny island of Run? If you want some really interesting and riveting reading, may I suggest the following book: "Nathaniel's Nutmeg" by Giles Milton? This is the history of the "Spice Trade" – The East India Company and the great race for the Spice Islands and their "treasures". I will quote from the above book: Page 2 – "The forgotten island of Run lies in the backwaters of the East Indies, a remote and fractured speck of rock that is separated from its nearest land mass, Australia, by more than six hundred miles of ocean. It is these days a place of such insignificance that it fails even to make it onto the map: *The Times Atlas of the World* neglects to record its existence..."

Many nations fought and squabbled over the spices and the riches they bestowed on the brave and the daring. One of the spices was nutmeg. An example of its value is described in the above book Page 6 and 7: "As late as 1665, Samuel Pepys records a clandestine meeting with some sailor 'at a blind alehouse at the further end of town' where he exchanged a sackful of gold for a small quantity of nutmeg and cloves." This tiny island was to play a major part in history. The Dutch and the British fought back and forth over this wee island and its riches of nutmeg and mace, over a number of years. The Dutch were the final occupiers. The British demanded it back. War between Holland and England, particularly in foreign regions, had raged back and forth for decades. In 1663, James, the Duke of York (King Charles 11's brother) commissioned four vessels to attack the Dutch in parts of Africa and then to sail to New Netherland. They attacked and captured, Fort Amsterdam.

The Dutch were incensed and demanded it back. Eventually they came to a diplomatic agreement. The British would give up their claim to the tiny island of Run and its treasures of spices in exchange for their captured island in New Netherland.

The name of the island in New Netherland? **Manhattan!** Fort Amsterdam was to become New York, named after the Duke of York, who organized its captivity. The Dutch, from the deal, got some nutmeg, but the British (later the USA) got the Big Apple!



Run



Big Apple

There is much, much more on the nations and empires of the present day world – sufficient to say God is still dealing with the nations. The descendant's of Abraham will play a major roll in latter day events.

Two final questions: Firstly, do modern “Israelites” know who they are? On the whole, the answer is: No! **Isaiah 42:19** “*Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and as blind as the Lord’s servant?*” And secondly, does this have anything to do with salvation. No, not directly, other than it is most probably the descendant's of Abraham (particularly the “Lost Ten Tribes”) that are the main perpetrators of Christianity World Wide (as amplified above). The House of Ephraim (10 Tribes) and portion of Judah (2 tribes), who never returned at the time of Ezra/Nehemiah, lost their connections with the Old Testament on their migrations across Asia-Minor/Europe. They eventually embraced Christianity as their main religion. The House of Judah (Jews) never lost their connections at the time of the “Despora” (AD70) and Judaism is their main religion. If you could prove you were a descendant of Abraham would it help your salvation? Or to go one step further; are you saved for that reason? The answer, on both occasions, is definitely: No! Even though Paul grieved for his own people (**Romans 9:1-4** and **Romans 10:1-6**), he knew they had to be saved by Grace and not to rely on their birth. They needed to be saved by obedience to Jesus Christ and the New Testament commandments, not of the flesh, but of the Spirit. But more of that later.

Chapter Six -The Silent Partner

When some folk want to start a new business, they often have all the ideas; all the skills and all the qualifications/licenses, but still lack one important ingredient – money. They then go looking for a “money person”; someone who will be a partner in the business, but not to be actually involved or necessarily have any knowledge of the business in question. Are they important? Oh, yes, very important. Even if they are just the “silent partner”, the business would not exist without them. They are certainly not the “poor relative” of the partnership, but rather the “oil” that makes the wheels turn.

The “silent partner” I am referring to is one of the big three of **Acts 2:38** “Then said Peter unto them, **“Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”** Pentecostals can tell you the day they were baptized in water and the day they were filled/baptized in the Holy Spirit, but often forget to even mention the “silent, all important, partner”: Repentance. Again, using the wee parable above, Repentance is the “oil” that makes the whole story of salvation work – without it everything falls apart or does not even “get off the ground”. In the parable of the Sower and the Seed in the Gospels, the seed that fell on the “...way side,” (**Matthew 13:4**) are the majority of people who hear the Gospel – they just reject it outright. They never come to any form of “change of heart” – repentance. The seed that fell “...upon stony places, where they had not much earth:” are those who often experience second thoughts immediately following, say, baptism. These folk, after getting baptized and/or get filled with the Holy Spirit, cannot handle the persecution/rejection of their acquaintances, but as soon as friends/relatives/workmates laugh at what they have done, they leave the Lord. It could be a sudden concern about what they have to deny themselves to become a Christian – they count the cost.

John the Baptist gives us an insight to the attitude we should have in coming to the Lord. When the Pharisees and the Sadducees, who were the main religious groups at the time of Christ, came to John’s baptism, John was scathing in his comments to them, because of their self-righteous attitude, that they thought they were good enough as they were and had a right to be baptized. He said; “...O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:” (**Matthew 3:7**). In the marginal reference in my Bible, on the word “meet” above it says: “Or, answerable to amendment of life.” Some people only talk about “Asking Jesus to forgive your sins”, and they say that is repentance. I agree that this is very important, but it is only part of repentance. John the Baptist wanted some proof that this move towards God, by being baptized, would be a huge change of life experience. He was looking for an “amendment of life”. I feel that the word “repentance” is not explained enough to the sinner looking for a new life.

In **Isaiah 30:21** we read “*And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.*” When we hear the Full Gospel for the first time, we are confronted with a life changing choice. It is as though we have been looking constantly in the wrong direction and all of a sudden; often from an unexpected direction, a voice says “This is what you have been looking for; this is totally different to what you expected.” One of the most trying experiences for a Mum and/or Dad is for a way-ward son/daughter to arrive home “full of the Holy Spirit”, with fire in their belly and tell them (Mum and Dad) that they are not saved. I have often witnessed a son/daughter, who has gone

“the way of the world” and have become the “black sheep of the family”, arrive home and have the audacity to quote scripture left, right and centre to the good, church going parents and point out scriptures that Mum and Dad have never confronted. All hell breaks loose. Their parent’s pride is dented and often they will not listen, even if the “black sheep” is telling them the truth.

Part of my testimony was that I was told to “repent” by the Evangelist, Billy Graham, but then in the next breath told to go back to my old church. I came to realize that a big part of my repentance was the insight first and secondly the courage to walk away from a church that did not preach the truth; had never ever told me how to get saved, and when I did hear the truth, did everything to talk me out of my experience. I feel many people miss out on their opportunity to enter God’s Kingdom by misplaced loyalty to an old family church, which long ago had its “*candlestick removed*” (**Revelation 2:5**) because they did not repent, when chastised by the Lord. Our loyalty should only be to the Lamb who died on the cross for all our sins and sicknesses.

We are all aware, but often ignore, scriptures on Christianity “gone wrong”. **Revelations 17 and 18** describe a system “...*full of names of blasphemy ...full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication...*” Here is a simple test. Does your church preach the type of repentance that the Bible talks about – a change of direction; a change of life? In another chapter I will talk about leaving the world; such things as drugs; alcohol; smoking; swearing; immoral relationships; etc. Does your church make a stand on these all important matters? Does the minister and oversight set a good example in these matters? Do they point out the importance and correct method of water baptism? Is it a Spirit-Filled Church where people “speak in other tongues” when they receive the Holy Spirit? Do they celebrate the communion ceremony, at least weekly? (**I Corinthians chapter 11**). Do they operate the Spiritual Gifts correctly? (**1 Corinthians chapters 12, 13 and 14**) Or are they a church bogged down with traditions; rituals; dogmas and teach the commandments of men instead of the commandments of God? What to do? **Revelations 18:4** has a simple answer: “*And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*”

Repentance is important at any part of our walk in the Lord – it is an on-going process that keeps us right with the Lord. Esau, who sold his birth-right for a pot of stew, “...*found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.*” (**Hebrews 12:14-17**) Hardness of heart, often caused by the pressures and troubles of life, must be overcome. Bitterness is a self-destroyer, justified or unjustified. Have a soft heart; be good at repenting; be good at forgiving. King David made some bad mistakes, but he survived by being very good at repenting.

What we need first is a faithful servant of the Lord to fully preach the Gospel unto us. We can then come to repentance. Is the Lord worthy of our utmost repentance? To quote Him: “*He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ... he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*” (**Matthew 10:37-39**). From my experience you could say; “He/she that loveth a packet of fags; he/she that loveth a bottle of booze; he/she that loves his/her drugs; he/she that lives in and loves an immoral life; he/she that loveth his/her old dead church; he/she that loveth his/her minister, who never preaches the full gospel, even though he (she?) is “such a lovely man/woman”; etc. etc., **is not worthy of me.**”

Repentance is a complete overhaul of our thinking and our attitude. We come under the bright light of the Word of God. When we repent properly we completely

die to our old life, whether it be religious or worldly. Sometimes the “worldly sinner” has an advantage over the “good” person; the church-goer. The “worldling” knows he/she is a sinner; we do not have to convince them. But the “good” person suffers often with one of the worst “diseases” one can suffer with when hearing the Full Gospel – self-righteousness. The trouble with self-righteousness is that you do not need God’s righteousness. You are a self-made person. To put it bluntly, Jesus died on the cross for naught, because you are “good” without His assistance.

There is nothing we can do that will make us acceptable in His sight. When we stand before God, we want Him to only see Jesus, because He is the only one who was ever perfect and became the sacrifice to cover all the sins and sicknesses of mankind in all generations. In **Romans 3:10** we read “... *There is none righteous, no, not one*” **v23**. “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*” and again in **Isaiah 64:6** “...*all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;*” Paul (who was about as righteous “in the flesh” as you could find) said in **Philippians 3:9** “*And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, ...*”

Do not try to build on an old “churchy” foundation; on the shaky sands of self-goodness, but make a complete new start; “burn your bridges”; give total allegiance to the Son of God; be righteous and washed clean in the Blood of the Lamb, who was slain for our salvation; for our happiness. Do not “muddy the waters” by asserting your own righteousness before God, by any deeds you have done or by saying “Well I am a good person; I have not killed or robbed anyone, I must be saved.” This is no great recommendation, because the vast majority of mankind, do not rob Banks or murder people. Humbleness is so important when you repent. We should totally surrender and say “Well, I have tried this and I have tried that; none of it has worked; I am now going to turn completely in a new direction; I am going to be totally saved by faith, obedience and belief in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice; I am now ready to do what ever He demands. When we come to this point are we saved? No, not yet, because we have just died to our old life, but not yet found a new life. We now need to totally bury the old life and then call on the Lord and ask for the new life. At least we are now ready and waiting. Do not have any doubt about the importance of repentance; God is constantly leading the unsaved to His faithful servants to hear the Word. What is next? Keep reading.

Chapter Seven - The Wonderful Numberer

One of the most convincing revelations to me at the time of my conversion and shortly thereafter was learning about the amazing pattern of numbers that runs throughout the whole Bible. God has always used numbers. He even chose two main languages for the Bible to be written in – Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament), both of which have numeric values to the letters of their alphabets, similar to Latin e.g. V is five; X is 10, etc. God often used numbers for many of His great prophecies. We have already talked about the “Seven Times” judgment of **Leviticus chapter 26** in a previous chapter.

In **Daniel 8** we have the vision of Daniel about the rise and fall of the Medo/Persian Kingdom (The Ram) and then the rise and fall of the Greek Kingdom (The He Goat). In the middle of this prophecy (**Daniel 8:13, 14**) we have a period of time prophesied. The period is 2,300 prophetic days/years. In the marginal reference in my Bible on **verse 13** it records “Or, *the numberer of secrets*, or, *the wonderful numberer*” When you start looking at the numbers both on the surface (such as the 2,300 days (years) prophecy) or the numbers hidden underneath in the Hebrew and Greek languages, you start to see the Divine Hand of the Master. Even though the Bible was written over thousands of years by many different authors; some educated, such as the Apostle Paul (studied “... *at the feet of Gamaliel*” **Acts 22:3**) and some fairly basic in their education (Amos the “...*the herdmen of Tekoa*” – **Amos 1:1**); still the same amazing pattern of numbers can be followed from Genesis (Hebrew Old Testament) to Revelation (Greek New Testament). Either there was amazing collaboration between the authors of the books of the Bible or there was a mighty Divine Hand guiding the authors by the Holy Spirit as they wrote – I will let you decide.

This is an enormous subject, so I can barely scratch the surface in this chapter on the “Wonderful Numberer”. Many people talk of the “Lucky” number – Seven. This obviously comes from the Bible as “God’s Number” or “God’s Seal”. Without any details why, (I can enlarge on such a subject as this by email jockduncan@iprimus.com.au – please feel free to email me) here briefly are some numbers that fit into a pattern. **Remember:** the Bible is written by approximately forty authors over approximately 2,000 years and yet the same wonderful pattern of numbers is found in all the books of the Word of God. So here goes:-

One/unity; **Two**/division; **Three**/Divine Perfection (Father; Son and Holy Spirit); **Four**/Natural Creation; **Five**/Grace and Love; **Six**/Man under sin; **Seven**/Spiritual Perfection; **Eight**/Resurrection; **Nine**/Finality; **Ten**/Perfect Order; **Eleven**/Disorder; **Twelve**/Perfect Government; **Thirteen**/The Devil’s Number; **Thirty Seven**/The Word of God; **Forty**/Probation, Trials, Testing; **One Hundred and Fifty Three**/Sons of God; and last but not least **Six Hundred and Sixty Six**/Corrupt Christianity.

Briefly on some of the above:

Four/Natural Creation – The four living creatures seen by both Ezekiel (**Ezekiel 1:5-14**) and the Apostle John (**Revelations 4:6-9**) represent God’s natural living creation on earth: *Man* (the ultimate of God’s creation); *The Lion* (the wild animal kingdom – The King of the Jungle); *The Ox/Calf* (The domestic animal for mankind – the Beast of Burden) and *The Eagle* (the King of the Bird Kingdom). In Jeremiah 49:36 we read of the “...four winds from the four quarters of heaven,...” and again in Revelation 20:8 “...the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth,”

Six/Man under sin (see also six, six, six of **Revelation 13:18**) – At the Wedding in Cana of Galilee (**John 2:1-11**), there were “...*six waterpots*”. Empty (man without God); Jesus (servants) fills them with water and then turns ‘*the water into wine*’ or spiritually speaking, He fills natural, unconverted man with the “*living water*” (**John 4:10, 14**), which is the Holy Ghost.

A little more detail on some of the other numbers:

Seven/Spiritual Perfection – This is just “touching” the number seven, Many years ago I was talking to an accountant (Wilfred) that particularly enjoyed this subject. Wilfred was the head of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Department in Hobart, in the State of Tasmania, Australia. He went through all the numbers in just **Genesis 1:1**, particularly the number seven. He went on solidly for half an hour just on this one verse. When he finally finished he said: “Well, that was just the first verse of the Bible; we now have the rest to examine!” I remember just three words out of this first verse: **God, Heaven** and **Earth** added together totaled 777 using the numbers on each of the letters in the Hebrew text.

There are many more that are easy to see on the surface of the Word: The first thing God created in Genesis – Light has seven distinct colours; we see that in the rainbow or when we pass white light through a prism and separate light into a spectrum. Man’s basic life in **Psalms 90:10** “*The days of our years are threescore years and ten...*” (70 years or 7 x 10). In **Genesis 2:2, 3** we read “*And on the seventh day God ended his work...And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it...*” **Old Testament Vengeance** - Cain is avenged “*sevenfold*” (**Genesis 4:15**), while Lamech “...*seventy and sevenfold*” (7x70 = 490) (**Genesis 4:24**). In the great promise of the coming of the Messiah in **Daniel 9:24-27** again “*Seventy weeks are determined...*” (7x70 = 490 prophetic years). **New Testament Forgiveness** - “...*till seven times?* No! “...*but, Until seventy times seven.*” (7x70 = 490 times) (**Matthew 18:21, 22**). The genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:17 there are three segments of 14 (14+14+14 or 6x7 = 42). There are many, many more examples, but to conclude on seven we can look at the Book of Revelation – it is “full” of sevens – Seven golden candlesticks, stars, churches (**Revelation 1:20**). Seven seals (**Revelation 6:1**); seven angels with seven trumpets (**Revelation 8:2**); seven thunders (**Revelation 10:3**); seven last plagues/vials (**Revelation 15:1**). Yes, seven is “God’s Number”.

Eight/Resurrection, New life, New beginning. There were eight saved in the Ark and started the new age following the flood. Many of the names of Jesus in Greek (again putting numeric values on the alphabet: Alpha 1; Beta 2; Gamma 3; Delta 4 etc. right through to Omega 800) add up to multiples of eight. **The Christ** = 1480 (185 x 8); **Saviour** = 1408 (176 x 8 or 2 x 8 x 88); **Lord** = 800; **Messiah** = 656 (82 x 8); **Son of man**; (occurs 88 times) = 2960 (370 x 8); **The Truth** = 64 and finally **Jesus** = 888. Coincident? What are the chances under the laws of probability?

Nine/Finality, Judgment. The word Amen or Verily (‘so let it be’) = 99 and they occur 99 times in scripture! There are nine gifts (**1 Corinthians 12**) and nine fruits (**Galatians 5:22, 23**). Jesus died at the “ninth hour” of the day; the end of the three hours of darkness and his final words were “...*It is finished*” (**John 19:30**); the “...*veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; ...*” (**Matthew 27:51**). This would have to be one of the most final things that have ever happened. As Jesus dies, he closes down the Old Testament; the New Testament (or agreement between God and man) was not to begin for 3 days and 3 nights when Jesus rose again from the dead. The reality (of the benefits) of the New Testament, for mankind, did not actually take place until the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (**Acts 2**). We are no longer under the law and commandments (one and the same in the Bible).

We are no longer ruled by the Ten Commandments – we (that are Spirit Filled) have his Word “...written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone (Moses and the Ten Commandments), but in fleshy tables of the heart.” (**11 Corinthian 3:3**) We automatically keep the law/commandments by being Born Again; by “love thy neighbour” (**Galatians 5:14**). What about the Sabbath? There is a wonderful fulfillment of this commandment also in being Spirit Filled – I will go into more detail in the chapter *The Great Debate*, coming up shortly. When Jesus died at the ninth hour, it was a massive turning point for all mankind; it was the real AD/BC moment in history (more than His birth).

Twelve/Perfect Government. Twelve patriarchs (twelve tribes of Israel – **Genesis 49**); twelve Apostles (remember my comments in Chapter three - *The Last Revival* I talked about the appointing of Matthias and how **eleven** (subversion, disorder) was not acceptable to God). The “...four and twenty elders...” of **Revelation 4:4** ($2 \times 12 = 24$), representing both of the two twelve’s above (patriarchs and apostles) and the “...hundred and forty and four thousand...” of **Revelation 7:4** ($12000 \times 12000 = 144,000$) – twelve thousand from each of the tribes of Israel. The tribe of Dan is dropped because they totally sold themselves into idolatry (**Judges 18:1-31; 1 Kings 12:25-33** and **Amos 8:14**) and the tribe of Joseph split into two tribes; Ephraim and Manasseh, to make up the twelve.

Thirteen/The Devil’s Number. Just a look at the numeric value of some of the names of the Devil in comparison with the names of Jesus (above): Dragon = 975 (75×13) (and appears 13 times in scripture); Tempter = 1053 (81×13); Belial = 78 (6×13); Serpent = 780 (60×13) and finally “...called the Devil, and Satan...” (**Revelation 12:9**) = 2197 ($13 \times 13 \times 13$)!

There are more but I did not want this book to be too technical. Let us finish with the unusual number of 153:

One Hundred and Fifty Three/Sons of God. The Hebrew phrase “...the sons of God” (**Genesis 6:2**) has a numeric value of 153 in the Hebrew language. Amazingly the same phrase in Greek is 3,213 ($3 \times 7 \times 153$). This number only shows up once on the face of the scriptures: “Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: ...” (**John 21:11**). The phrase above “fishes” = 1,224 (8×153) and also “the net” has exactly the same numeric value of 1,224! This is the time when the whole of Christianity hung in the balance. Would Peter go back to his old life or would he spear-head the Church? Jesus had said to him three and a half years earlier, on a similar occasion “... Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (**Matthew 4:19**) What sort of fish was Peter to have in the net: natural fish or “the sons of God”? Why the exact number of 153 in **John 21:11**? Was not a vague figure of about one hundred and fifty near enough? We are only talking about fish! Or are we? No, the whole church was to be “children of God” through Jesus Christ.

This is the third time Peter had taken up fish of significance, at the Lord’s direction, and they were all miracles: Firstly “...and they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.” (**Luke 5:1-11**); Secondly “...go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money...” (**Matthew 17:24-27**) and thirdly “...for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.” (**John 21:11**). The value in the fish/net was the Church: the “Sons of God”. The Bible never records again that Peter went back to fishing for fish; but it is full of he, and others like the Apostle Paul, fishing for the souls of men. Even though Jesus proved to be an amazingly good “fish-finder”, was He really interested in fishing? No, of course not.

God, Jesus, the Holy Ghost and all the heavenly host are totally focused on one, all important purpose – converting natural man and making him part of the Living Church. The last great Holy Ghost Revival is a God Driven Church!

Chapter Eight – The First Coming

The Old Testament has many, many promises and prophecies of the first coming of Jesus. Some things were pretty obvious: We had a set time (**Daniel's** “70 weeks”) promising a period of 490 prophetic years “...*from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince...*” (**Daniel 9:24-27**). History records that Artaxerxes wrote the letter to empower Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem in 453 BC. It is simple to add 490 years and you come to 37 AD. “...*and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease ...*” (**Daniel 9:27**). Jesus died around the age of thirty three and a half; His ministry had lasted for approximately three and a half years. He was “*cut off*” (v26); died on the cross around 33AD. “*But...he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week...*” The next three and a half “*days*” (prophetic years) of the week was the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the establishment of the church until 37AD.

Any Jewish scholar, of any value, should have been playing with the numbers and dates of Daniel's Seventy Weeks. It was not very difficult to work out when the prophecy was to start. Even if there was some debate on that point, it had to be somewhere around the time of Jesus. If it was not Jesus then it had to be someone else! You only have 490 years. You only have a small area of history to look at for the “*going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem*”. What were they doing?

From what we read in the scriptures no one seems to have been doing such a thing. Nobody seemed to be waiting for Him. Even very Godly people like the father of John the Baptist (Zacharias – **Luke chapter one**) was not expecting anything to change; Joseph and Mary had to be told what was happening was of the Lord (**early chapters of Matthew and Luke**); even Simeon and Anna, (**Luke 2:25-28**) the two elderly Godly Israelites who blessed Jesus when He was eight days old, had to be brought “...*by the Spirit into the temple...*” Had anyone worked out that this was the time of the Messiah – we do not have any record that such a thing was investigated.

In **Isaiah 9:1, 2** we read “...*by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations, The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*” Nazareth is in Galilee, a long way north of Jerusalem . He that was to come would appear in “*Galilee of the nations*”. In **Micah 5:2** we read “*But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*” Bethlehem is just south of Jerusalem in Judah. And again in **Hosea 11:1** we read “...*and called my son out of Egypt.*” Egypt is a long way further south of Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

I have put these three prophecies of the coming of the Messiah together to demonstrate that it is not always easy to know exactly how it all fits together. What seems to be conflicting statements, came together by God's direction. We have three prophecies of the coming of the Messiah that describe Him coming from three different places: Galilee; Judah and Egypt. But He did all three; He was born in Bethlehem; He fled with his parents to Egypt immediately after His birth to escape from Herod the Great and then came “*out of Egypt*” and then went and lived in Nazareth in Galilee. I will deal with the second coming of the Lord in a later chapter. Sufficient to say we do not know exactly how it is all going to fit together, but from the example above, there is not a contradiction of scripture; just sometimes

our understanding is limited. One thing I do know is that just as the first coming was “right on the button”, so will the second coming also be fulfilled to the “scripture”; it will be right on target and will fulfill all God’s promises and prophecies. How do I know? Because of God’s prophesy in **Isaiah 9:6, 7** “*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...his name shall be called Wonderful; Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, **Upon the throne of David**, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. **The Zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.***”

Are we keen to see the Word fulfilled in every detail? Our degree of “keenness” could never match God’s zeal to make sure every scripture is fulfilled

Chapter Nine – Power with Glory

After trying to find God in campaigns and churches that had no evidence for what was being said, it was wonderful to hear, within minutes of talking to a Spirit Filled person (Barend, mentioned earlier), that the God of the Bible was always a miracle-worker and that all the wonderful signs; wonders and miracles of Bible days can still happen today. Many people who believe that miracles do not happen these days, still pray. If they believe God answers their prayers then they believe in miracles – every answered prayer is a miracle! We have often said, in the world of Pentecost, that if you took the miracles out of the Bible, you would not have much left. God has always done miraculous things: **Enoch** being translated (**Genesis 5:21-24**); **Moses** and the opening of the Red Sea (**Exodus 14:19-22**); **The pillar of cloud** by day and the pillar of fire by night (**Exodus 40:34-38**); **Joshua** and the Children of Israel cross the River Jordan at the time of flood (**Joshua 3:14-17**); **Gideon** and the three hundred defeat the host of the Midianites (**Judges 7:1-25**); **Elijah** raises the widow's son from the dead (**1 Kings 17:8-24**); Naaman the Syrian healed of leprosy by obeying the instructions of **Elisha** (**11Kings 5:1-14**); God preserved the **Children of Israel**: "...there was not one feeble person among their tribes" in the 40 years of trial in the wilderness. (**Psalms 105:37**); **Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego** with the **Fourth Man** in the Burning Fiery Furnace. (**Daniel 3:1-30**) and **Daniel** in the Lion's Den (**Daniel 6:1-28**). Now this is just a small segment of the God of miracles in the Old Testament.

From the inception of the coming of the Messiah miracles were the "order of the day". Of all the amazing miracles in the Bible, the virgin birth of Jesus must rate up amongst the greatest and that is how the New Testament starts. Some "christians" have a problem believing in the virgin birth of Jesus. This is fundamental to Christianity; no virgin birth, simply, no Christianity. The miracle of Jesus is that He was "half" God and "half" man when He was here on earth. That way He was the best (only!) person in the Universe to reconcile mankind to God – the perfect mediator. If Joseph was His father, then He would be just like us – mortal, under sin. But His father was God, through the Holy Spirit.

From the moment He re-appeared at the age of thirty, miracles started to happen. The first miracle was Jesus being filled with the Holy Spirit in the River Jordan with the sign of the dove. And from then on the Gospels are full of the many miracles he performed, starting with Him changing the water into wine at Cana of Galilee. Jesus starts to heal the sick on a daily basis; not just one on rare occasions like the Old Testament, but multitudes now flock to Jesus to be healed. He had everyone's attention. The miracles drew the crowds. He was then able to preach to the crowds that gathered. It was a wonderful way to spread the Gospel. People came to realize that God was a good God. He was interested in their well-being.

How important were signs, wonders and miracles? Let us look at some of the last words Jesus said before He returned to Heaven – they are recorded in **Mark 16:15-20**. "...Go ye...and these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues. They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover..." I have found over the years that I have been in the Lord, that this passage of scripture is the one that has the most impact. If you quote verse 15 you do not cause any ripples – that is quoted by many churches. If you quote verse 16, people become very uncomfortable with "...He that believeth (not a problem here) and is baptized (problem number one) shall be saved." People do not

like water baptism associated with salvation. But when you quote the “*signs following*” scriptures, in many people’s opinion, it is time to get rid of the whole passage.

Folks talk about some early manuscripts/translations leaving off the last verses of **Mark 16 – from verse 9 to verse 20**. Why do they latch on to this? Because they are uncomfortable with what **Mark 16:16-18** says – it is too direct – it is too convicting if you do not believe in the importance of a “*signs following*” life as a Christian. As a matter of interest, there is nothing in these scriptures that contradict any other part of the Gospel. **Verse 16** is not the only verse to associate water baptism with salvation e.g. **1 Peter 3:1**. “*The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us...*” And all the signs following are recorded in the Book of Acts: **Power over Satan** (Philip in Samaria **Acts 8:7** “*For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed*” and many more passages); **Speaking with Tongues** (Pentecost in Jerusalem **Acts 2:1-4** “*...all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues...*” and more passages); **Divine Protection** – accidental snake bite or poisoning – (Apostle Paul **Acts 28:5** “*And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.*”); **Divine Healing** – (**Acts 28:7, 8** “*...Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.*” And many, many more passages). Yes, the Book of Acts, covering the first few decades of the early church, is full of the “*signs following*.”

In the previous chapter *The Wonderful Numberer* I talked about the hidden numeric value of the scriptures. Well, **Mark 16:9-20** is a mass of numeric Bible numbers, particularly the number seven. It has the stamp of the Master. **Mark 16** would also be incomplete if you left it at **verse 8** – all the other Gospels and Books are complete and finish as they should. Why were the last verses missing on some of the early manuscripts/translation? Nobody definitely knows, but my guess, for what it is worth, is that this generation was not the first to feel the heat and impact of these verses. The easiest way to disobey what they say is to “get rid of them!” Two final comments on **Mark 16:15-20**: firstly they were Jesus’ final comment; His parting words; this would make them very important and secondly, to put it simply, they really worked then and they really work now. **Verse 20** says it all “*And they (the early disciples of the Lord) went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*”

The world is full of “door knockers” (nothing wrong here, I have done it myself) or “street fighters” (witnessing on the street – again I have done that too) who present a “gospel”, but without any miracles; without any “*signs following*” and thereby without any evidence or power (I have not done that!). The Apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians 2:4, 5** “*And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*” Before I was properly witnessed to, all I heard were stories of past miracles that happened two thousand plus years ago or that would happen in the life hereafter. What an excitement went through our family when we heard that; “*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*” (**Hebrews 13:8**) Paul (above) could see that if he preached a Gospel without signs, wonders and miracles (without power), then all the people would have would be his word, but no “signing off” by God. As we read at the end of the Gospel of Mark, God proved and approved the Gospel and the preachers thereof with accompanying “*signs following*”.

There is one thing Pentecostals constantly talk about and that is that God is a miracle worker in the midst of present day man. To preach a gospel without signs and wonders and miracles is like trying to drive a car without an engine. It looks like a car, but it has not power. Many people sing the chorus “Expect a miracle every day...” This is a wonderful way to live your daily life. It is sad that many people who start off believing in a God of miracles, then have someone prove “doctrinally” that miracles no longer happen. This then destroys their faith. I have heard people say: “Well, I have never seen a miracle; I just do not believe in miracles today.” They have really answered their own statement of disbelief. You will never see a miracle unless you first believe. Again people often say: “Show me a miracle, and then I will believe”, but Jesus says “..., *Be not afraid, only believe.*” (**Mark 5:32**) and then you will see the miracle.

Faith is the simple ingredient: “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” (**Hebrews 11:6**). We must first believe that He is a God of power and compassion and then believe He can perform what He has promised. Some people say that Jesus only did miracles during His ministry to draw the crowds so He could preach to them. This certainly was part of God’s wisdom, but there was far more to why God healed the sick and or did any other miracle. “*And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.*” (**Matthew 14:14**) God and Jesus really felt for sick folk and they still have the same compassion today.

In **James 5:14-16** we read: “*Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the payer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; ...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*” If you are sick or any of your family or friends need healing, then to have faith in God can do “wonders”. The Medical Profession does a marvelous job, but is still limited, even with the explosion of knowledge in this area. When you take medicine, it works just the same whether you “believe” in it or not. People say they “believe” in their doctor or in the Medical Profession. I am sure belief is always good for us rather than doubt and despair, but God is the one who requires faith prior to Him working a miracle.

The man at the Gate Beautiful in **Acts 3:1-16** “...gave heed unto them, (Peter and John) *expecting to receive something of them. It is this “expecting to receive” that brings results. Peter declared to the amazed crowd; “...the Prince of life, through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom you see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*” In a later chapter **Amazing Stories**, I will re-tell many amazing testimonies of miracles and healings that I have witnessed; some forty plus years ago.

There are many more wonderful scriptures on signs, wonders and miracles. Sufficient to say at this point that reading a scripture about one of the healings/miracles in the Bible and then believing it can happen today to you or your family or friends , can result in amazing healings/miracles in your life and in the lives of those near and dear to you. When you read a scripture in the Bible it is not like reading something in any other book. There is power and life in this wonderful book. “*For the word of God is quick, (living) and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents (intentions) of the heart.*” (**Hebrews 4:12**)

God is behind this whole wonderful miracle working Gospel. God's miracles are signs of the Latter Rain; signs of the End Times; signs that God/Jesus are still "*moved with compassion*" on the sick of today. If you have only been involved with a powerless gospel/church, then now is the time to find the miracle working God and become involved in the Spirit Filled Church of the last times.

Chapter Ten – The Jug or the Jordan

In the chapter *The Silent Partner* we talked about the importance of Repentance. When we repent we “die” to our old life. Now it is necessary to talk about burying the old life and all its’ ways and addictions.

Many who are brought up in old traditional churches were “baptized” (christened) as a baby. This involved the minister dropping some water on our forehead. There is no record in the Bible of a child being baptized (christened). Some Orthodox Churches realize that it should be by immersion and therefore baptize babies right under the water. The method is right, but the candidate is wrong. There is no record of that happening in the Bible either. These are the traditions of men.

Baptism is for a person old enough to understand what they are doing. Salvation is a personal choice; no-one else can decide for you; not even your parents. When we have the Gospel fully preached to us, Water Baptism will be mentioned early on in the proclamation of the Truth. How important is Water Baptism; what method should be used; what words should be said by the candidate and by the person baptizing us and finally, who should conduct the baptism? I will now endeavor to answer all these questions.

The importance of water baptism is greatly debated. The question is; do we want a scriptural answer or a popular answer? I will only answer the scriptural one; there are hundreds of books and leaflets on the market that will answer the popular one. Let us start with the baptism of Jesus.

“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan (a very long walk) unto John, to be baptized by him... I (John) need to be baptized of thee and comest thou to me? ...Jesus answering..., Suffer (allow) it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went straightway out of the water...” (Matthew 3:13-17) Jesus was around the age of thirty when he walked from Northern Israel down to the River Jordan just down from Jerusalem. John the Baptist felt, he being a mortal, should be baptized by Jesus the Son of God and not the other way around, but Jesus said they had it the right way around. One of the best questions on the importance of Water Baptism is to ask: “Why was Jesus baptized?” John felt it should be him – he was a descendant of Adam; he was a “sinner”; although he was about as “good” as you could get: a prophet equal to the greatest of the prophets. But it was not to be – he died un-baptized still under the Old Agreement and will come under that dispensation, along with all the other Old Testament prophets, such as David; Elisha, etc. Water Baptism is for the New Testament; for the Church age. But why was Jesus baptized? He did not need to be “born again” – He was the Son of God. He did not need to bury His old life – He was without sin; He did not have an “old” life. So why did He do it? He said “to fulfil all righteousness” or to fulfil all God’s plan. There can only be one answer to that question. He did it as an example to us! He went before us to show us the way. He did not ask us to do something He was not prepared to do Himself.

Is it a new phenomenon for people to balk at the waters of baptism? Let us look to a scripture for the answer: **Luke 7:29, 30:** *“And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.”* So as you see it is not new for people to “punish” themselves by not getting baptized. I never cease to be amazed at how people will wriggle and squirm this way and that way to avoid keeping this simple commandment. **(Acts 10:47, 48:** [Cornelius and his household] *“Can any man forbid water, that these should not be*

baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we. And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. ...") Jesus suffered the most agonizing death for our well being and baptism is such a simple "ask" from him to us and yet we argue against its importance.

Some folk seem to think if they can find a "simple" scripture that asks hardly anything of them, then this scripture "miraculously" cancels out all other scriptures that ask them to do something, such as Water Baptism. Amazing! I have had people latch on to **Romans 10:9, 10**; "...if thou confess with thy mouth....and believe in thy heart... thou shalt be saved..." To them this scripture "miraculously" says: "You do not need to repent; you do not need to be baptized; you do not need to receive the Holy Spirit; you do not need to give up your old life; you can still kick the dog and yell at other drivers with "road-rage"; etc. etc. No scripture "cancels-out" another important part of the Gospel. If this principle is right then **verse 13** "cancels-out" **verses 9 and 10** above, because it says: "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*" So is **verse 13** saying you do not need to "confess with your mouth" or "believe in thy heart"? Did Paul change his mind so rapidly between **verse 9** and **verse 13** that he had found even a simpler way? The answer is obvious – of course not. **Verses 9, 10 and 13** are of equal importance. So then how are we saved? We are saved by "confessing with our mouth" by "believing in our heart" by "calling on the name of the Lord" (**verses above**); we are saved by repentance, water baptism, by receiving the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:37, 38**); we are saved by faith (**Habakkuk 2:4** "...but the just shall live by faith"); we are saved by belief (**Mark 16:15** "He that believeth ...shall be saved."); we are saved by keeping His Word (**1 John 2:5** "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him."); we are saved by love (**Mark 12:28-31** "... Which is the first commandment of all? ...thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength:...the second is... Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself..."); we are saved by grace (**Ephesians 2:8** "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:..."); we are saved by obedience (**1 Samuel 15:22** "...Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."); we are saved by entering through Jesus (**John 10:9** "I [Jesus] am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, ..."); we are saved by His life (**Romans 5:10** "...we shall be saved by his life."); we are saved by the Gospel (**1 Corinthians 15:1, 2** " ...I [Paul] declare unto you the gospel ... By which **also** ye are saved, ..."); we are saved by hope (**Romans 8:24** "For we are saved by hope: ..."); we are saved by staying in the fellowship [boat] (**Acts 27:31** " , ... Except these abide in the ship [type of the Church], ye cannot be saved."); and finally we must take Jesus' advice and endure to the end. (**Mark 13:13** " , ...but he that shall endure unto the end, [death or second coming] the same shall be saved. Exhausted? Well it is one of the most important subjects, as it involves our whole life; here on earth and then into the ages to come. My final comment: it would be foolish to quote just one of the above verses e.g. "saved by hope" and then say, because of that verse, one does not need to be "saved by Water Baptism" or "saved by Grace". **We are saved by keeping all of the Gospel/Word.**

What method should be used for water baptism? A colleague of mine was once in a debate over the method of water baptism with an aged Anglican minister and a close friend of the minister, who did not necessarily believe in God, but was an expert on the Greek language. As the minister was trying to prove that the Greek word

for baptism could also mean “sprinkling”, his own friend, the Greek scholar, interrupted and said; “Look, I am awfully sorry to have to disagree with you old chap, but you would never use the Bible word for baptism for sprinkling. The word is used in the Greek language in the clothes dying trade. The word means to not just put under the water, but to literally plunge under the water; possibly several times.” No, you could never use “christening” as a replacement for real “under the water” baptism. In the end it is what God requires of us, not what some church belief on the matter might be. If we want to be right when we stand before God, we must do it God’s way! It must be right under the water. **Romans 6:3, 4** says “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized **into his death**? Therefore we are **buried** with him by baptism into death: ... if we have been **planted** together in the likeness of his death ...*” When you bury a body you do not just sprinkle over it some dirt; you dig a hole and fully cover it with soil. Also when you plant a seed you make sure you cover it with soil. In **Acts 8:26-40** we read of the baptism of the eunuch: “...and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water...” A final comment on “sprinkling” verses “immersion”: **John 3:23** “*And John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, **because there was much water there**: and they came, and were baptized.*” With “sprinkling” or “pouring” only a cup-full of water is needed! As long as you can be covered at the time of baptism; at the beach (the eunuch of Acts 8 may have been baptized in the Mediterranean – possible the only water near Gaza); in a tank; a bath (as long as it is big enough); a dam; a well; a river (it does not have to be the Jordan).

Again there is a debate on what words should be said when somebody is being baptized. In the **Book of Acts** it will say “...in the name of Jesus Christ...” (**2:28**) or “...in the name of the Lord...” (**10:48**); or again “... in the name of the Lord Jesus” (**19:5**). Each time it is slightly different and we do not know if those exact words were said or it is just simply stating that was the type of baptism as apposed to “...John’s baptism.” (**19:3**) Sometimes nothing, that was said, is recorded; e.g. the baptism of Jesus (**Matthew 3:13-17**); the baptism of the Samaritans (**Acts 8:12**); the baptism of the eunuch (**Acts 8:38**) and the baptism of the jailer (**Acts 16:33**)

In **Matthew 28:19** we have the instruction from Jesus on baptism; “... baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” Because this wonderful statement covers the whole God-Head, including Jesus Christ, most Pentecostals, including myself, favour saying these words as we baptize someone. But I am not saying if you were “baptized in the name of the Lord” you have been baptized incorrectly, because nobody knows exactly, if anything, was said when baptism took place in the Bible. The act of a minister of the Lord putting somebody under the water is baptism.

We also require the candidate to “confess their faith/sins”. In **Matthew 3:6** we read “*And were baptized of him [John the Baptist] in Jordan, confessing their sins.*” And again in **Acts 8:37** the eunuch “...said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” One more in **Acts 16:31** the jailer was instructed, prior to baptism, by Paul and Silas to “...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, ...” Some ministers when baptizing get the candidate to repeat after the minister the following type of confession: “I confess with my mouthand believe in my heartthat Jesus Christ is the Son of God... and that God has raised Him from the dead” Another way is to make a statement and get the candidate to agree verbally. Minister: “Fred Bloggs/Mary Smith do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?.” Candidate: “I do.” Minister: Do you believe that He died on the cross for your sins and rose again for your justification.

Candidate: “I do.” Minister: Do you believe that He will fill you with the Holy Spirit (if they are not already baptized in the Holy Spirit) and that He will give you a whole new way of life.” Candidate: “I do.”

The minister (we usually call ourselves a pastor in the Pentecostal world) will then say, just prior to lowering the candidate under the water (you are only under the water for a second or two!): “Well then, on confession of your faith Bill/Mary (either of the above methods) “I baptize you in the name of the Father.....and of the Son.....and of the Holy Spirit” (**Matthew 28:19**). Simple but very effective.

Two final questions need to be answered: How urgent (as apposed to how important) is it to get baptized from the moment of belief/repentance and secondly, who is qualified to baptize us?

I never cease to be amazed how long some people have to wait to get a church (who believes in the correct method of baptism) to get around to doing this all important commandment of God. I often hear that the church will “save them up” for a special day/ceremony. Is this scriptural – simply put, no! Jesus did not start His ministry until he was baptized of John and then filled with the Holy Spirit (**Matthew 3**). On the day of Pentecost, when the crowd gathered because of the phenomena of “*speaking in tongues*”, approximately 3000 souls were baptized **that very day** followings Peter’s preaching: “*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*” (**Acts 2:41**) The Samaritans in **Acts 8:12** “*But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women [no children].*” Some groups insist that people “study” with them for x amount of time [often many months] and when they have come to believe that certain line of teaching/doctrine, then the church says they are “ready”. The eunuch asked (after the preaching of “Jesus” by Philip, which obviously included baptism) “*See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ...And he [Philip] commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water ...*” (**Acts 8:26-40**) Instant: there is no delay here. Cornelius and his household baptized following the receiving of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 10:44-48**). No one forbad baptism. The jailer, just after midnight, “*...and was baptized, he and all his, straightway (immediately).*” (**Acts 16:25-40**) You cannot get much more “urgent” than immediate! There are more references e.g. **Acts 19:1-6**, but I think it is clear in the Bible that the early church never delayed or stalled on baptism. When should you be baptized? As soon as possible, the moment you repent. If you have just received the Holy Spirit, with the sign of “*speaking in other tongues*”; do not hesitate!

And finally to answer the question on who is qualified to perform baptism. Generally it would be a Spirit Filled minister/pastor/apostle/evangelist/prophet. Philip at the time of baptizing the Samaritans and the eunuch, was most probably more a deacon; (**Acts 6:1-5**) one “*who served on tables*” [later to be recognized as an evangelist – **Acts 21:8**]. Sometimes a person “out in the wopps” is the only person on hand. I believe there is one all important criteria: that the person is recognized by God as one of His servants and the only guarantee is for them to have been Spirit Filled by receiving the Holy Spirit with the only Bible evidence recorded for the church and that is with the “*sign of speaking in other tongues*”. If people are not already filled/baptized (same thing in the Bible) with the Holy Spirit, then the person baptizing them, should baptize them with an expectancy that the candidate will be filled with the Holy Spirit with the “*sign of speaking in other tongues*” The candidate should have also been encouraged to expect to be Spirit Filled at baptism.

When you follow **Acts 19:1-6** through you can see how Paul saw the matter. When he found certain disciples in Ephesus, who obviously were pretty excited and keen about the Lord, he [Paul] listened carefully to what they were saying. They certainly believed in God and they talked about having been baptized, but their conversation left out an all important part of conversion – the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Notice Paul did not let this pass – it was important! He asked them “...*Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?*” They replied that “...*We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.*” Now Paul was stunned by this; it did not add up at all. Why? Because water baptism and the receiving of the Holy Spirit go hand in hand. When they were baptized it is also obvious that not even the words “I baptize you in the name of and the Holy Ghost” were said at that time. They had never even heard about the Holy Ghost. As I said above, Paul was puzzled by this – how could they be baptized and not know about the Holy Spirit. Something was awfully wrong! He said unto them “...*Unto what then were ye baptized?*” And they said, “*Unto John’s [John the Baptist] baptism.*” Suddenly everything fell into place. It is no coincidence that Apollos, who was a preacher “...*knowing only the baptism of John.*” (**Acts 18:24-8**) had just been in Ephesus. It is pretty obvious (but I cannot be definite) that these disciples were disciples of John the Baptist through Apollos. He [Apollos] had “... *the way of God...*” explained “...*more perfectly...*” (**v26**) and became a Christian through the preaching of Aquila and Priscilla (a great husband and wife team for the Lord).

This explained the lack of knowledge/experience in the Holy Spirit in these twelve disciples in Ephesus. Paul explained (**v4**) that John was a forerunner of the Lord and that they should believe in Jesus. This they were willing to do. Now some wonder if these disciples were baptized again. We know definitely that they now found out all about Jesus and the Holy Ghost. Was it necessary to baptize them again; was John’s baptism not good enough under the New Testament? A good question. We assume (which of course is always dangerous) that the 120 who received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost in **Acts 1 and 2** were baptized under John’s baptism. But let us say that is true. Did they need to be baptized again “in the Lord?” I personally think they were not; they were far too busy on the Day of Pentecost baptizing the 3000!

I personally believe (and I repeat that is just my personal belief) that the twelve at Ephesus were baptized again; maybe just so that they had a whole new beginning in the Spirit Filled Church. Some others think they were not – I do not have a great problem with that, as John the Baptist was a wonderful, Godly man and His baptism was fine for the Lord (**Matthew 3**). But where I have seen a problem is where people, who should be baptized again, because there were problems with their first baptism, say “Well, I have been baptized unto John’s baptism – a baptism of repentance.” I have been preaching the Full Gospel for over 40 years and I have never, ever run into anyone who was baptized “into John’s baptism”. What I have run into are people who have been baptized by non-Spirit Filled ministers, who do not believe in “*speaking in other tongues.*” I see no connection between “John’s baptism” and false christianity. Again, personally, I feel that to liken John’s baptism to wishy-washy christianity is an offence to John the Baptist; he who stood for pure truth; he who never hesitated to point out the evils of false religion or evil practices – (he lost his head doing that) and he would preach the same message, if he was alive today. If you say it is a baptism of repentance, I would point out that Bible repentance

(see chapter **The Silent Partner**) includes leaving one's old dead, non-scriptural church – that is part of repentance.

In conclusion I would not take “any chances” when it comes to Water Baptism – our whole life is on the line. Make sure the person who baptizes you “*speaks in tongues/is Spirit Filled* (same thing). Make sure they give you an expectancy also to “*speak in tongues*”. When I was baptized I was baptized into the Spirit Filled Church of the Bible – some people are baptized into a particular group – that is wrong – get baptized again, if necessary.

Chapter Eleven – My Best Friend

The disciples were secure and comforted when the Lord walked personally with them for three and a half years. When Jesus talked of dying, they were really upset: *“From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.”* (**Matthew 16:21, 22**) I wonder if later in life Peter thought to himself, “Did I really rebuke the Lord and just selfishly think of myself?” I am personally grateful that Peter did not win the debate. Jesus was very limited while He walked on earth, in the sense He could only be in one place at one time. He was “contained” inside a human frame.

By dying on the cross and then rising from the dead, Jesus was presented, by His Father, with a gift: the Gift of the Holy Spirit, who was then to be poured out on believing mankind. In **John 20:22** we read *“...he [Jesus] breathed on them (the disciples), and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost...”* There is no record here that they received the Holy Ghost at that moment, because that experience was to happen a few days later at Pentecost. This was a benediction; a blessing and a promise that it was going to happen. The disciples certainly did not have “a new life in Jesus” – we read in the following chapter that Peter and a number of the other disciples went fishing – Peter’s old life. No, Jesus put the experience still into the future: *“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”* (**Luke 24:49**) It was not until Jesus returned to heaven (approximately 40 days after the crucifixion) that He was presented (only He was worthy) with the promised Holy Spirit. This is clarified in **Acts 2:33** *“Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.”* (There is ‘evidence’ when you are filled with the Holy Spirit)

The great news is that when we receive this wonderful gift with the Pentecostal experience of *“speaking in other tongues”*, Jesus comes and dwells inside of us: *“And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”* (**1 John 3:24**) Many people talk of “giving their heart to Jesus” or “I received Christ into my heart” – these man-made phrases sound good, but are unscriptural. The only people who have Jesus abiding in them are people who are Spirit Filled the “Pentecost” way.

So what did John mean when he said “keepeth his commandments?” What commandments? The Ten Commandments? One of the most important revelations that come to us after we are saved is the knowledge of the difference of being under Grace as apposed to being under the law and commandments of the Old Testament. The New Testament is such a much better “deal”. *“And now hath he [Jesus] obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant (Testament), which was established upon better promises.”* (**Hebrew 8:6**) Some people cause confusion by insisting on keeping the Old Testament law and commandments – we see that confusion in **Acts 15:1-31** *“...Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved”* (**Verse 1**) *“...certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them (the Gentile converts), and to command them to keep the law of Moses...”* (**Verse 9**) Before I comment on this thought of keeping the law when we are under grace, I would like to point out here a classic problem that happens sometimes in the Church. People want to bring into this wonderful, life changing experience of salvation, some of their old

church ways and ideas. These “converted” Pharisees had not really given up their old religion. My advice – do not try to bring into your new Spirit Filled life “baggage” from your old life or religion – “burn your bridges” totally. I really hope Nicodemus (who is mentioned three times in John’s Gospel) came to the Lord, but I also really hope he was not one who still hung onto the old religion of the “sect of the Pharisees”. The Apostle Paul was a converted Pharisee, yet his thoughts on the old beliefs of being a Pharisee, was to “*count them as dung*” (very descriptive!). He totally turned his back (repented) of his previous Pharisaical life and beliefs. **(Philippians 3:8)**

Some confuse people today by saying that only the “sacrificial law” (a non scriptural term) is done away, but we must still keep the Ten Commandments. There is an anomaly here though; they only seem to talk about one of the Ten Commandments – keeping the Sabbath **(Exodus 20:8-11)**. Does the New Testament make a difference between the law and the commandments? Let us look at a couple of interesting scriptures: Firstly in **Romans 2:16-29** Paul repeatedly uses the word “law” **(Verses 17, 18, 20, 23, 25, 26, and 27)**. The word “commandment” does not appear in this passage of scripture. The examples of the “law” Paul uses are found in the Ten Commandments: **Exodus 20:15** “*Thou shalt not steal*” (The eighth commandment) **(Verse 21)**; **Exodus 20:14** “*Thou shalt not commit adultery*” (The seventh commandment) and **(Exodus 20:4, 5)** “*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, (idol)...*” (The second commandment) **(Both in Verse 22 of Romans 2)** So when Paul talks about the law he is also talking about the Ten Commandments. It is said by some that the “sacrificial law” has been done away with through the death of Jesus on the cross, but that the Ten Commandments have not been done away. In **11 Corinthians 3:7** we read “*But if the ministration of death, written and engraved in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:...*” What was “written and engraved in stones”? Of course it was the Ten Commandments: **Exodus 34:1** “*Hew thee two tables ... write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables...*”

There were five commandments on each. So here it clearly states that not only the “law” ceased at Calvary, but also the Ten Commandments “...was ...done away...”

Now that we have established the law and commandments are one and the same, chapter three of Galatians really puts every thing into perspective: “*O Foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you ... Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law (commandments), or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are you now made perfect by the flesh?*” **(Verses 1-3)** Whenever people start to mix their good works with the simple faith of the Gospel confusion enters. As I said above, those who push keeping the Ten Commandments will mainly (only?) talk about keeping Saturday as the Sabbath. I believe in keeping the Sabbath, but not just a physical rest for one day, but a complete rest twenty-four/seven! I will go into that in a later chapter. Sufficient to say that trying to please God through good works (keeping the law and commandments) frustrates the Grace of God. To finish on this subject let us read the end of **Galatians 3 (verses 24,25)** “*Wherefore the law (commandments) was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith has come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster (law and commandments).*”

Whereas God always seemed (not anymore) “a million miles away”, Jesus came down to our level; He became a man and “dwelt among us”: “*And the Word (Jesus) was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.*” **(John 1:14)** Whereas we

were once burdened down with the heavy “*shalt nots*” of the law and commandments, we now “... *just walk in the Spirit...*” (**Galatians 5:16**). **John 1:17** really sums up the matter: “*For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*” Jesus wants to be very close to us: “*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you...I have called you my friends:...I have chosen you...*” (**John 15:13 – 16**) Many people say “I just want to love Jesus; I just want to talk about Him”, but the best way to show our love and devotion to Jesus is to keep His Word, Sayings, and Commandments (I am not talking about the Old Testament/Moses commandments) (**John 14:21-24**) “*He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me...If a man love me, he will keep my words...He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings...*” It is no good saying in one breath how much we love the Lord, but when shown important scriptures, such as on Water Baptism or “*speaking in other tongues*”, we “gag” at the Word.

Do I dare quote **1 John 2**? Will you be offended? – many are! If you love Him and His Word together, you will not. “*He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*” (**Verse 4**) If we love Jesus we best demonstrate that by loving His Word and keeping His New Testament commandments. **Verse 5** says that better than I can: “*But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*” I think some groups/people end up “creating” a different Jesus to the one in the Bible and they end up loving “...another Jesus...” (**11 Corinthians 11:4**)

My best friend is the Jesus of the Bible; the Son of God who “finished” the Old Testament by not destroying it, but fulfilling it (**Matthew 5:17** “*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*”). He was the perfect, acceptable sacrifice to God. Before I was saved, I would look in the “mirror” (The Bible) and all I would see was myself reflected back with all my faults and sins. But from the moment I was Born Again, the reflection is no longer myself, but all I now see is Jesus, “The Perfect One”.

When Nicodemus said that “*we know*” (**John 3:1**), the Lord said, basically, you do not know until you are Born Again. “...*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*” (**Verse 3**) and again “...*Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God*”. (**Verse 5**) The marginal reference in my Bible on “water” refers, as a cross reference, to **Mark 16:16** (“*He that believeth and is baptized...*”) and on “the Spirit” it refers to **Acts 2:38** amongst others, which of course is **Pentecost**. Why did Jesus say in **Verse 7**: “*Ye must be born again*”? Is this statement, by Jesus, just as a ‘must’ commandment; (you just, must “do it”) or is there hidden here a wonderful secret to our whole conversion? It is not until we are Born Again by “*water* (baptism)” and “*of the (Holy) Spirit*” of Pentecost that we can “see”; perceive; understand; comprehend God’s kingdom. Nicodemus proved this point by later saying he did not understand what the Lord was talking about: “...*How can these things be?*” (**Verse 9**) We will not only prevent ourselves from ‘entering’ into the kingdom to God; we will also never understand it, if we are not Born Again. Christianity only “*born of the flesh*” does not work; we must be “*born (again) of the Spirit...*” to make the wonderful New Testament function properly. (**Verse 6**) To “give your heart to Jesus” will not bring you into the Born Again experience.

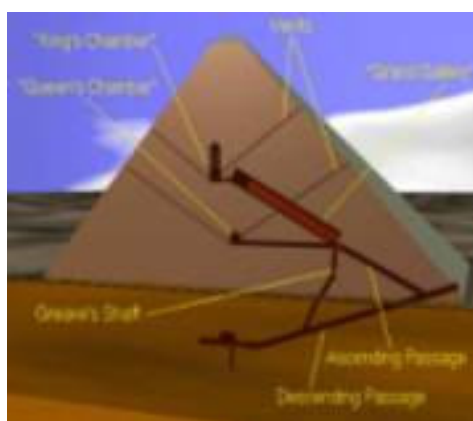
God is as keen (zealous) as ever to bring this generation; this last “chosen generation” to love His Son and understand and enter His kingdom. We are so fortunate to have His Word written in our own language, ready for us to search out

and obey. This is no “dark age”; this is a time of “...*great light*; ...”; a time when “... *light is sprung up*.” (**Matthew 4:16**). If you do not have Jesus yet as your best friend, then the Rock of Ages, is diligently pursuing you with the Everlasting, Unchangeable Gospel to bring you into this wonderful, personal relationship. “**Grace**” sums up our new agreement/relationship with God – it means “His undeserved favor and blessing” (Amplified Version on **Galatians 1:15**). Nothing we do; no keeping of the Old Testament law and commandments; no good works: God’s Grace is “free and unmerited”; we must just accept it and be thankful we live in the Gospel Age.

Chapter Twelve – The Land of Mizraim

Ancient Egypt played a long and involved relationship with the people of God (Israel – the people “ruling with God”) It provided a home for Israel for 430 years (**Exodus 12:41**). It was all part of God’s plan for Joseph to be sold as a slave and then to rise to second only to Pharaoh (**Genesis 41:43**). Through this action of the brother’s of Joseph, Jacob (Israel) and his descendants, came to live in Egypt. This land where descendants of Ham (Mizraim) lived, has one of the best recorded histories of any ancient civilization. There are many references to Egypt and it represented to the Children of Israel their “old life”; the land of their bondage. God sent Moses to “*let my people go*” (**Exodus 8:1** and many others). These people; **The Egyptians**: this land; **Egypt**, figures often in Bible Prophecy.

The only remaining Ancient Wonder of the World is in Egypt – The Great Pyramid of Giza. There has been a fascination with this particular pyramid for thousands of years, as it is very old and “miraculously” constructed. It is larger than any other pyramid on earth and its intricate passage-ways really set it apart from the other pyramids or for that matter any other “man-made” structure on earth. The question is whether or not this Great Pyramid of Giza had any connection with God or was it just an amazing feat of man’s ability, proving **Genesis 11:1-9** (at the time of the construction of the Tower of Babel) “*...and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do...*”? Now the details, measurements, etc. of the Great Pyramid can be very technical and as I have previously said I did not want this book to be too technical. I will just jot down a few basic “wonders” to do with the Pyramid, but then talk particularly whether there is any connection between it and God’s Great Plan.



Firstly its position on earth is quite amazing in relation to the “centre” of the earth and its position in Egypt and the Delta of the Nile. It is so precise. Its alignment “North, South, East and West” is also no small achievement. It is a maze of numbers and figures which take your breath away, but I will not go into those in this book; sufficient to say that there are many, many detailed books on the Web/Market that would satisfy the curious. A little on the “impossible-ness” of its structure. It embodies over two and a half million blocks, many around the ten tonne size up to seventy tonne; each block is cut so precisely that you would think they were cut by a “laser beam”. The thickness of the mortar and the microscopic narrowness of the gap between each block is mind blowing: around one third of a millimeter (one fiftieth of an inch)! Speculation on who and how the Great Pyramid was built will continue to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (and He will then reveal all!). Remembering the fact that the Great Pyramid has over two and a half million blocks; if approximately (not that anything to do with the Great Pyramid was “approximate”) one block was precision laid every 15 minutes over a ten hour working day, for 365 days per year, it would take over 170 years to build! And that is without anything going wrong! If you have ever had a house built, you understand my inference. The mind boggles trying to imagine laying one of those huge blocks, without modern tools; instruments or machinery, with perfect precision, every fifteen minutes. Now to really “blow your socks off” there is a very complicated and amazingly intricate passage-system buried in the middle of the Great Pyramid that must be worked in as the pyramid is being constructed. These days all the blocks of the Great Pyramid are exposed to the elements “stair-case” like, which is great for those wishing to climb to the summit. Originally, it is believed, it was covered completely with polished limestone, some of which can be found below the sand-line. These were possibly stripped-off over the millenniums to build other constructions. It must have been magnificent in its original form.

My question is: “Did God have a major hand in its structure?” In many ways, even though it is in Egypt, it does not have an Egyptian stamp on its structure. The prolific hieroglyphics found in many tombs and structures in Egypt are missing. Do the passage-ways tell a story? The other pyramids usually only have a descending passage down to a burial chamber. When you compare the Great Pyramid, there is no comparison. One really needs to see drawings of comparison to see exactly what I mean. I will briefly describe, what is possibly, the “Gospel in Stone”.

The entrance into the Great Pyramid is partly up the outer-side through a hidden door-way.(now open) The passage-way is descending; not very high and descends to a chamber with something like a well downwards in the floor – the passage-way continues a short distance beyond the chamber. Other than the hole in the floor this is fairly common with the other Egyptian pyramids, except many of those are not as precise as the descending passage-way of the Great Pyramid. Partway down the descending passage-way there is an ascending passage-way of the same height – one needs to stoop over to walk these passage-ways. After ascending awhile this passage way suddenly opens up to a very high chamber/passageway that continues up at the same angle. At the very point the large chamber/passageway starts, a passageway, the same height as the lower ascending passage-way, starts in a horizontal direction. This eventually ends in a chamber. The large ascending passage ends also into a horizontal, but far more complicated passage-way, which comes then into a large chamber, where-in is a empty, carved-stone, box. It has no lid and is damaged slightly on one corner of the rectangular box, which is called the “coffer”.

Many of the measurements of the Great Pyramid are taken from a small piece of carved stone that protrudes from the wall in the upper chamber – the length of this piece of stone is called the “Pyramid Inch” and is used throughout the structure and passage-ways for measuring sizes and distances, which are then equated to time. Again I will not try to give facts and figures here. There are so many wonderful features of this amazing structure; it needs a book on its own. All I wish to achieve here is very basic “appetizing” thoughts as to the possibility that God had a very big hand in its structure. Sufficient to say here that there are two score marks near the beginning of the descending passage-way, from which measurements in pyramid inches (one inch for a year) are taken. This time-frame is then placed over the great Bible events of some of the Old Testament through to the Gospel Age. It is pointed out that astronomy was taken into consideration when the Great Pyramid was constructed. A date of 2141 BC is placed at the two score marks. At a date that year (2141BC), the Pole star shone directly down the ascending passage-way and the star Alcyone in the Pleiades constellation aligned at 90 degrees with the two score marks; one on each side of the descending passage-way. Using pyramid inches dates connecting the great events of the Bible/history are calculated. I will not go into that in detail. I will just describe the possible meaning of the passage-ways.

The descending passage-way represents fallen man starting from the sin of Adam and Eve, when they were driven out of the Garden of Eden and brought mankind under the Curse. Mankind is on a downward way; bent over with a load of troubles and worries. For many that path just continues down to the “Chamber of Horrors” containing the “bottomless” pit (Hell). But before getting there, there is an ascending passage-way that was firstly very difficult to find, because it was sealed off with a granite plug. This represents the story of the descendants of Abraham; Isaac and Jacob being in bondage in Egypt; God sending Moses to “set his people free” (remove the granite plug). The covenant with man and God through the law and commandments now sets man in an upwards direction. He is heading in the right direction, but he is still stooped over (these passage-ways [both the downwards one and then the beginning of the upward passage-way] are around 1.5m high), because the law and commandments did not work for mankind and instead of liberty, they were weighed down under the burden of the law.

But suddenly we burst out into the large chamber. It is still in the upward, correct direction, but now we have lots of room to move and rejoice in the freedom of the Gospel. We are no longer stooped over; Jesus said *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”* (Matthew 11:28-30) The passage-way that also starts at this point and continues at the same height, represents the Children of Israel that reject Jesus as the Messiah – they do not progress beyond that level – they continue burdened down with the law and commandments. The Queen’s chamber at the end of this passage-way represents a smaller reward – the “promised land” of this natural life.

The large passage-way ascends eventually to the King’s Chamber, which represents the Kingdom to Come; The Second Coming of Jesus to take us on into the Ages of the Ages – eternal life with God the Father. The Coffin is empty; the grave could not hold the Lord: *“Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.”* (Acts 2:24). It is wonderful how the passages of the Great Pyramid fit the story of the Gospel. Is this great structure to be a “Witness in Stone”? – **Isaiah 19:19, 20** *“ In that day shall there*

be **an altar** to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and **a pillar** at the border thereof to the Lord. And it shall be for **a sign and for a witness** unto the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the Lord because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and **a great one**, and he shall deliver them.” Now is not this an amazing scripture? If it is not talking about the Great Pyramid of Giza, then to what is it referring? The only “altar”; “pillar” that fits the bill is this great structure and its intricate passage-ways. This was no Egyptian tomb for a dead Pharaoh; this is for “a sign”; for “a witness” of the story of the coming of the “great one” – the Saviour of the World

One final question. If this is an enduring, God directed construction, by whom was it built? The person would have to be in direct contact with the Lord and would have to be a man who “walked with God” (**Genesis 5:24**) and who had “...found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” We have to go well back in Bible History and there are only two Godly men described around the time it was built and either of them is a possibility. Enoch (**Genesis 5: 21-24**) and Noah (**Genesis 6 through to chapter 10**); they both lived for many hundreds of years, so time was not a problem. I lean towards Enoch. It is as though God left us a sign! Everything to do with the Pyramid is a mathematical wonder.

If we measure the side of the Pyramid, it measures 365.242 Pyramid Cubits, which are the exact number of days in a solar year. Enoch lived for 365 years and then God decided to take him. Was this number of years (365) for Enoch’s life on earth just by chance or was this by design? Was God sending us a link between Enoch and the Great Pyramid that he lived 365 years and the stamp of 365 is in the measurements of the Great Pyramid? Pure speculation, but it is very interesting. The alignment of the Great Pyramid; its connection with the orbit of the earth linked with the planets and the stars and its wonderful numbers and measurements, certainly become brain teasers.

If you add up the numeric value (see the chapter *The Wonderful Numberer*) of the Hebrew letters of **Isaiah 19:19, 20**, you come up with the number 5,449, which is the exact height of the Great Pyramid in Pyramid inches! The measurement is from the bottom of the Pyramid to the flat platform on top. Details from “The Great Pyramid Decoded” by Capt. Raymond. Not only is this figure the height of the Great Pyramid, but if you measure the descending passage, from the door right to the bottom and then the wee extension on the other side of “The Pit”, you will come up with the same measurement: 5,449 pyramid inches! An amazing, designed connection with this scripture and the Great Pyramid or just another coincidence? You decide.

We can only speculate: we will have to wait for eternity and ask them (Enoch and Noah) in the life hereafter! The Great Pyramid has no capping stone, which would be a smaller one-piece pyramid in itself: **Matthew 21:42** “...*The stone which the builders rejected, the same has become **the head of the corner**: this is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?*” It certainly is marvelous. All sides of a pyramid point to the top. In this case, every thing points to Jesus Christ, “*the head of the corner*” and the “*chief corner stone*:”

We have quoted a couple of scriptures out of **Isaiah chapter nineteen**, but the whole chapter is an amazing prophecy concerning *The Land of Mizraim* (Egypt). **Ezekiel, chapters 29 and 30**, has many parallel prophecies to Isaiah 19. When I was still a teenager, just shortly after I came to the Lord, I was in discussion with my local pastor, Peter Mullen (read part of his story in a later chapter - *A Good Report*). We were discussing Bible Prophecy and he mentioned the prophecies of the “Drying up of the Nile” in **Isaiah 19** and **Ezekiel 29 and 30**. I remember Peter, like anyone

interested in prophecy, trying to work out when and how this particular prophecy could be fulfilled. There never was a doubt that it would happen and that it would happen soon, as we were in the End Times, but the question was how it could happen. The year was 1961 and it was already happening, but we did not recognize it at that time. I remember Peter's theories; "Maybe the countries South of Egypt are going to cut off the water, before it gets to Egypt" There would be few countries that depend upon a river as much as Egypt – it is their "life-line." The Egyptian people mainly live on the banks of the Nile and on the Delta. Very little water comes from rain over Egypt; they are totally dependant on the rain-fall in the Southern African countries. That water then comes to Egypt via the White and Blue Nile Rivers to become the longest river complex in the world. The river flows Northwards through the midst of Egypt and then finally through the Delta into the Mediterranean Sea. On either side of the Nile and its banks, it is desert.

Isaiah prophesied "*The burden of Egypt...And the waters shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up. And they shall turn the rivers far away; and the brooks of defense shall be emptied and dried up...*" (**Isaiah 19:5, 6**). In Ezekiel we see a similar prophecy repeated; "*And I will make the rivers dry, ...*" (**Ezekiel 30:12**) The main thrust of this chapter is a destruction from the Babylonian Kingdom under Nebuchadnezzar, but as often with a "last days" prophecy, it can appear in amongst a prophecy that involved that time; the time that Ezekiel found himself as a captive in Babylon.

For thousands of recorded years, records have been kept of the flood season (June to October) of the River. It always broke the banks and deposited nutrient rich soil along each side of the Nile. Even though the floods were devastating, the result was a deposit of some of the richest farming soil in the world. In 1899 to 1902 the first Aswan Dam was constructed, with British assistance, to regulate the flow of the Nile. It was a sluice-gate type of dam that allowed the gates to be opened in times of flood and then towards the end of the flood to close the gates and hold back some of the flood water to assist during the rest of the year. The banks were still enriched each season. The problem was that the Nile water was so full of sediment, it would soon silt up the dam. The dam was heightened in 1911 and 1933, to try and overcome this problem. The thought was then conceived to build a huge dam, similar to those on other large rivers. The British were not convinced a solid-wall-type dam would be effective on this unusual river where the flooding of the river every year supported the whole farming community. In 1956 the Suez Canal Crises resulted in the British losing their influence in Egypt. A political vacuum developed. Nasser, the President of Egypt, turned to Khrushchev, Premier of the USSR and it was agreed that with Russian advice and Russian financial assistance, a great dam, similar to a huge Russian dam (e.g. the Sayano-Shushenskaya Hydro Dam) would be built a few miles from the old Aswan dam. It was to be called the Aswan High Dam. Similar to most modern dams, it would be a huge wall that would block off all the water and it would be able to generate Hydro-Electricity. Construction for the dam started around 1960 and it was not finished until the early 1970's. The huge lake formed by the dam is called Lake Nasser and is the largest man-made lake in the world being 310 miles long (e.g. from San Francisco to Death Valley, Yosemite National Park). Even though the dam was not completed until 1971, the first year that the waters of the Nile, in all its long, recorded history, were actually totally held back by the dam and did not actually cover the banks of the Nile through to the Delta, was 1967.



Aswan High Dam

Very soon after the construction of the dam, massive ecological problems developed. Had the Egyptians themselves fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah and Ezekiel? I will just briefly look at the basic problems that have developed from this man-made form of “drying-up” the Nile. Before I do that, I should mention part of **Ezekiel’s** prophecy in **verses 9 and 10 of chapter 29**: “...because he (“Pharaoh”) hath said, *The river is mine, and I have made it....I (God) will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate from the tower of Syene even unto the border of Ethiopia.*” And again in **30:6** “...from the tower of Syene shall they fall...” In the Dictionary.com on Syene it says: “, a town of Egypt, on the borders of Ethiopia, now called Assouan,” God, thousands of years ago, prophesied the site of the dam!

Firstly the amount of water that eventually reaches the Mediterranean is now regulated and the benefits of the flood waters to that sea have been lost. It formed part of the “cleansing” of this almost trapped sea with a small opening at Gibraltar and a smaller (modern) opening through the Suez Canal. It helped the level of salinity of the sea. Also, at flood time, it was excellent for the fishing fleets of the Mediterranean, as the fish (sardines) would gather for the extra nutrients that entered the Mediterranean at the mouth of the Delta. Generally the fishing in the Nile River, from the Dam to the Delta, was badly affected. Big companies benefit from fishing on Lake Nasser, but the “fellaheen”; the farmers and fishermen on the banks of the Nile, were badly effected: **Isaiah 19:8, 10** “*The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish...And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish.*”

The fellaheen were further affected by the dreaded Bilharzias Disease (Schistosomiasis), which is a tiny fluke (parasitic worm) that penetrates the skin and then lives in the blood stream, where it multiplies rapidly. These tiny flukes come from freshwater snails that breed in many of the rivers and lakes of Africa. The water that is particularly affected is water that is contaminated with human sewage. Prior to the building of the Aswan High Dam the fellaheen did catch this horrible disease during the flood season: now they catch it all year round. The number of people now in Egypt with Schistosomiasis has skyrocketed. It is thought that 200 million people now have this disease world-wide and that 750,000 die each year from its effects.

It causes anemia, inflammation; formation of scar tissue; dysentery; enlargement of the spleen and liver; cancer of the bladder and cirrhosis of the liver. Those who have the disease have no energy and no wonder when you see the list above. The Dam has greatly increased the spread of this horribly disease.

The banks of the Nile no longer receive that beautiful silt/soil each year. The Dam produces Hydro Electricity; much of the electricity goes into large factories that make artificial fertilizers that are put onto the banks of the Nile, which is not to be compared with the "God-made" fertilizer of the flood deposited sediments. The "man-made" fertilizers contaminate the Nile and kill the fish! How clever is that? "...how say ye unto Pharaoh, **I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings?**" (**Isaiah 19:11**) The fellaheen farmers are in trouble: "*And they shall turn the rivers far away; and the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up: the reeds and the flags shall wither. The paper reeds by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no more....Moreover those that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded.*" (**Isaiah 19:7-10**) The following is a quote from Lonely Planet Travel Book on Egypt under Environment sub-heading; **Plants:** -

"The lotus that symbolizes ancient Egypt can be found, albeit rarely, in the Delta area, but the **papyrus reed**, depicted in ancient art as vast swamps where the pharaohs hunted hippos, has been lost. Except for one clump found in 1968 in Wadi Natrum, papyrus can only be found in botanical gardens." End quote.

Remember: The first year, in the recorded history of the floods of the River Nile, that it did not flood, was 1967, when they first closed off the waters, by the Aswan High Dam. One year later, "*The paper reeds by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no more...*" (as quoted above).

The Dam has caused other problems, as well. Many of the carved statues had to be moved so that they were not swamped by the rising waters of Lake Nasser. "*...the idols of Egypt shall be moved at **Isaiah 19:1** his presence ...*" Abu Simbel, built by Ramesses 11, would have to be the most famous that was cut up and then reassembled above the water line. There has been trouble with the Delta because of the small amount of water now passing through the five main rivers of the Delta. Salinity is up. There are problems with the banks collapsing, through the low level of the river. The Dam itself has problems. Evaporation on the lake has increased, because of wind movement over such an open expanse of water. Because of the massive amount of water, some has gone down under the Dam and sprung up in unusual places. There is much, much more, but sufficient to say that God's Word is always complete and fulfilled. We will keep watching!

One final comment on Egypt. I mentioned earlier that the first actual year that the water was stopped, was 1967. In the middle of this prophecy there is a mention of Egypt and their relationship with Israel: **Isaiah 19:16, 17** "*In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of hosts, which he shaketh over it. **And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt**, everyone that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the Lord of hosts, which he hath determined against it.*" Is it just a coincident or is it Divine Control that this prophecy, of approximately two and half thousand years from its inception, should be fulfilled in 1967, the year of the **Six day War?**

Israel, in 1967, was celebrating their 50 year Jubilee (from 1917 when the Balfour Declaration was made and Palestine was promised as a future home of the Jews) : "*And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return*

every man unto his possessions, and ye shall return every man unto his family,” (Leviticus 25:10). The very year that the River Nile “**dried-up**” for the first time, Israel (Judah) was a “*terror unto Egypt*”. I will not go through the whole war; it is well documented; sufficient to say that the Egyptian Army was totally defeated and their army was in total disarray, as they fled across the Sinai Desert back towards home; leaving vehicles and even their boots in the dessert!

In the chapter on *The Wonderful Numberer* I mentioned the 2,300 year prophecy regarding the fall of Persia and the rise of the Grecian Empire under Alexander the Great. (Daniel chapter 8) “... How long shall be the vision..... Unto two thousand and three hundred days (prophetic years); **and then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.**” (Verses 13 and 14). The “he goat” is the focal point of this prophecy; the “notable horn” is Alexander himself. I thought you might find it interesting that Alexander started his campaign against Darius the Third in 334BC, when he crossed the Hellespont (Dardanelles, near the cliffs of Gallipoli). By adding 2,300 (plus one year going from BC to AD) we arrive at 1967. It just so happens that the ancient walled-city of Jerusalem (“**the sanctuary**”) was recaptured (“**cleansed**”) at that time – June , 1967. For the first time, in millenniums, Jerusalem was back in the hands of the descendants of Abraham; Isaac and Jacob - they had “**returned...unto his possessions...**” as prophesied above in **Leviticus 25:10**. 1967 is another year of fulfilled Bible Prophecy; a “*sign of our times*”.

This is not an anti-Egyptian commentary; just excitement that God is zealous to perform His Word. Salvation is for all mankind and God right now is pursuing fallen man to bring him into His wonderful Spirit Filled Church. The church of God has no denominational name; it is made up of all the Spirit Filled saints, who walk according to His Word, at anytime on the earth.

Chapter Thirteen - The Great Controversy

I have found that there is nothing more contentious in Christianity than “*speaking in other tongues*”. Will I avoid this subject, because it is so controversial? You guessed right; no way! I have come to realize that often the very things us humans resist and fight against, are the very things, in the long haul, that are best for our well-being (like salad!). In the chapter *The Silent Partner* we talked about “dying” (Repentance); in the chapter *The Jug or the Jordan* we talked about “burying” (Water Baptism) and now we are going to talk about resurrection and the new life (Receiving the Holy Spirit). Some folk feel that repentance and water baptism is good enough – well you are only dead and buried; surely we do not want to remain that way? Life is what Christianity is all about; Amen?

In **Isaiah 28:9-13** we have a wonderful prophecy of “*another tongue*”. This prophecy is clarified and repeated by the Apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians 14: 21** “*In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.*” I have had people, at times, get pretty hot under the collar when I bring this subject up. When Paul quotes this passage he leaves a bit out in the middle, but re-quotes “*yet for that will they not hear me, saith the Lord*”. It is as if he knew how much this part of the Word would be resisted.

In **verse 9 of Isaiah 28** the Prophet asks whom will be taught Knowledge and who will understand Doctrine? The answer – babes in Christ. How did Jesus put it? “*...Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.*” (**Luke 18:17**). It takes humility to accept this part of the Word; it takes the simple child-like acceptance that God knows what He is talking and prophesying about to receive this blessing. **Verses 10 and 13 of Isaiah 28**, talk about “*precepts*” and “*lines*”. For those who complicate the Bible, God’s Word to them is just one precept (hard saying) after another and just one line (rule) after another, with just a little bit of understanding here and a little bit of understanding there. It is just a book of do’s and don’ts; a text book. The Bible certainly paints a gloomy picture if you approach the Word that way: “*...that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.*” (**Verse 13**) So how should we hear God? “*For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.*” (**Verse 11**) This is the new way; this is the New Testament way.

How important is “*stammering lips and another tongue*”? I will digress again for a moment. I am amazed how often I hear that someone (often filled with the Spirit themselves) has advised a person (usually to do with Water Baptism and being Baptized in the Holy Spirit) that this or that part of the Word of God is not important and not necessary. I have searched this great book for many years and I have never found anywhere in the New Testament that He gives us the authority to “play down” any of His Sayings; Word or Commandments. Back to my question; how important is “*speaking in other tongues*”? Note first that the Holy Ghost is not mentioned here (**Isaiah 28**); just “*tongues*”. We know, of course, from the New Testament that tongues and the Holy Spirit go hand in hand.

So how important is this part of God’s Word: “*To whom he said, This is the rest wherein ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing:...*” (**Verse 12**). What is? “*... stammering lips and another tongue...*” As already discussed previously we are no longer under the law and commandments. One of the positive commandments (a “shalt” commandment and not a “shalt not” commandment) is the

4th commandment – “...*the Sabbath day...keep it holy.*” (**Exodus 20:8**) Now everyone knows that the Sabbath day was a day of rest; physical rest. A day to not work. So do we still keep the Sabbath under the New Testament? No; Jesus fulfilled and finished the law and commandments during His life and Crucifixion. How do we “*fulfill*” this commandment? Answer: we get filled with the Holy Spirit with the sign of “*speaking in other tongues*” and then, **and only then**, we enter into the rest and the refreshing every minute of every day for the rest of our life.

Jesus received a “sign” when He was Baptized – it was the sign of the dove descending upon him (**Matthew 3:16, 17**) He received another sign and that was the “...*voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*” We might not hear the audible voice of God when we are baptized and spirit-filled, but the words are still there; God is very pleased with anyone who follows Jesus through the Waters of Baptism and is Spirit-Filled. That same Jesus, who had the sign of the dove, said we would have another sign: “*And these signs shall follow them that believe; ...they shall speak with new tongues;*” (**Mark 16:17**). I am always excited when I remember Jesus said to **all believers** that they would “*speak with new tongues*”.

The disciples were told not to leave Jerusalem, “...*but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.*” (**Acts 1:4**) Jesus often spoke of the Holy Spirit, including the above **verse in Mark**. In **John 3** it was “*born of the Spirit*” (**5**); in **John 4** it was “*water springing up into everlasting life*” (**14**); in **John 7** it was “...*rivers of living water.*” (**38-39**); in **John 14** it was “...*another Comforter...the Spirit of truth; ...*” (16, 17) and in **John 15** the “...*Comforter...I will send him unto you.*” (**7**) Through the Holy Spirit, we can all “share” in the Lord, at any time, in any place.

On the day of Pentecost the Christian Church began when the 120 (**Acts 1:15**) received the Holy Ghost: “*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them, And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues (languages) as the Spirit gave them utterance.*” Pentecost was the fiftieth day after the Passover. Jesus was now the “Passover Lamb”. The Children of Israel kept the Passover once a year to remind them of their great deliverance from Egypt (**Exodus chapter twelve**). The Passover lamb was a type of Jesus and His sacrifice. We now keep the Communion, hopefully at least once a week: “*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread,*” (**Acts 20:7**), to remind us not about the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, but we take the bread (usually a piece of dry biscuit, which is un-leavened) to remind us of the beating Jesus took in His body for our healing (“...*by whose stripes you were healed.*” **1 Peter 2:24**) and we take the fruit of the vine (usually grape juice) to remind us of the washing away of our sins. (**Matthew 26:26-29**) There is no other “substance” under heaven that will wash away our sins, **but the blood of Jesus**. Some folk have made the “first day of the week”, which is Sunday, a type of Sabbath, which is Saturday. “*One man esteemeth one day above another; another esteemeth every day alike...*” (**Romans 14:5**) and again in **Colossians 2:16, 17**: “*Let no man therefore judge you in ...respect of an holyday ...or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come...*” Sunday is convenient for most of us to go to meetings and the communion, but it is not any different to any other day in God’s sight; “*This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice*

and be glad in it.” (**Psalms 118:24**) Let us rejoice and worship the Lord everyday of our new life in Him.

A number of points should be noted on the Pentecostal Experience in **Acts 2**. Firstly they were “*all with one accord*”. You must feel one with the early Christians; you must be in harmony with the whole concept of “*speaking in other tongues*”. If you doubt; remember doubt is the opposite of faith. There is the “*sound of rushing mighty wind*” and there are “*tongues like as of fire*”. When it records other people in the Book of Acts receiving the Holy Ghost, only the “*speaking in tongues*” is recorded. “Tongues” are the number one sign (**Isaiah 28:9-13** and **Mark 16:15-20**), but this being the first time the Holy Spirit is poured out for the “Born Again” experience, God identified the Spirit with two other great symbols – wind and fire. In **Isaiah 28** it talked of the “*refreshing*”; the rushing wind was the “*refreshing*” pouring into the 120. In **John 3:8** “*The wind bloweth where it listeth* (where it decides), *and thou hearest the sound* (voice) *thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth, so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*” The “wind” represents the life of God coming into us: “*...and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; ...*” (**Genesis 2:7**). The Spirit gives “*voice*” (sound) when He enters; we “*speak in tongues.*” And the second symbol was the fire: “*I* (John the Baptist) *baptize you with water unto repentance: but...he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.*” (**Matthew 3:11**). The fire burns up all the rubbish in our lives when we are Spirit Filled. I have heard many testimonies of how people’s lives were instantly changed from the moment they “*spoke in tongues*”. Smoking, which is so addictive and difficult to give up, is often instantly gone and with it **the desire** to smoke. I have heard of people who have an alcohol problem, who are no longer able to drink; “*it tastes horrible; it smells horrible.*” Let the “*fire*” of the Holy Spirit do His complete work in our lives. Drug addiction: Heroin addiction often gone instantly, with no withdrawal symptoms. The “*evidence*” is plain to see, once a person is Spirit Filled, that God is not happy with us being involved and dependant on these life destroying substances. I do not drink alcohol at all, because I care for my brother and sister in the Lord, that might have a problem with the drink and I might be putting a stumbling block in their way. “*It is good neither to eat flesh* (particularly if it is “*offered to an idol*”), ***nor drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.***” (**Romans 14:21**)

There was confusion at Pentecost when the 120 “*spoke in tongues*”. Peter preached (**Acts 2:14-40**) in the known, common language of that time: either Hebrew or Aramaic. Even though the crowd was from many parts of the Mediterranean World and spoke the language of their adopted country, they were all Jews and understood the preaching of Peter. They had heard the “*...wonderful works of God.*” (**Acts 2:11**) spoken miraculously, through the Holy Ghost, in the language of their own country and wanted an explanation – Peter gave them that and clarified his statement with prophecies of the coming of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, from the Old Testament (**Joel 2:28-32**). “*Speaking in Tongues*” is a “*sign to unbelievers*” (**1 Corinthians 14:22**), but it is not used for preaching. “*For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God...*” (**1 Corinthians 14:2**)

Why speak in tongues? There are good reasons, but if there was only one, then that would be enough for me. Even if God just said we should, without any rhyme or reason, then that should be sufficient. Often, when folk get a little agitated, when I am talking about tongues, I have to remind them that I never “*invented*” this experience; it was God and Jesus who spoke about this wonderful happening. To somebody who has not had “*the experience*”, it is hard to explain. It is like describing chocolate cake;

you will never know how good it is until you taste and eat the cake! In **1 Corinthians 14:4** we read “*He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; ...*” and in **Jude 20** “*But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost*”. If you have any doubt as to what “*praying in the Holy Ghost*” is, Paul explains the difference from normal prayer. “*For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth ...I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also...*” (**1 Corinthians 14:14, 15**). Spirit Filled people do both; we really enjoy “*speaking in tongues*” on our own and also with some other saints: just having a great time “*in the Spirit*”; building up and edifying ourselves in the Lord. We also pray in our own “*known*” language. If you know, say, six languages, when you receive the Holy Spirit, it will not be one of the six; it will be an “*unknown language*”; it will be a miracle; nothing to do with your mind, just your faith.

How do we know a person has just received the Holy Spirit? Do we just go on their word or is it because they have an inner glow? These things are good, but they are not Bible proof. The story of Cornelius is wonderful to follow through. He was a sincere, God fearing; generous and good man, but he was not saved. (“*Who [Peter] shall tell thee words, whereby thou [Cornelius] and all thy house shall be saved*” **Acts 11:14**) He had obviously come to an Old Testament appreciation of the God of the Jews. God had a problem (if that is possible?) with the early church in that they thought salvation was only for the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; Israelites. God had to bring them to a realization that this wonderful message was for all people and nationalities. God picked on Cornelius to establish this message. As you see in this story in **Acts 10**, Cornelius sends his servants from Caesarea to Joppa (both ports on the coast of Israel) to ask Peter to come and tell him the Gospel. But we have a problem; Peter and the rest of the Jerusalem church, do not think Gentiles (Romans) can be saved. Therefore God has to prepare Peter, prior to the servants arriving, otherwise he will tell them to go away. Peter has the vision of the sheet being let down and God telling him “*...What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.*” (**Acts 10:14**) When the servants arrive, Peter is ready. He takes six other Jewish Christians with him, who have not had the vision and are most probably wondering what Peter is up to and feeling very uncomfortable in the presence of these Romans. God wanted more than the testimony of Peter; he arranged for seven witnesses, including Peter. As Peter is preaching the Gospel to this wonderful, humble soldier and his house-hold, God intervenes. I would like to point out at this point that God does not preach the Gospel direct to anyone; He always directs one of His servants to do the actual preaching [e.g. Paul/Ananias (**Acts 9:1-22**); Macedonia/Paul (**Acts 16:9-15**) and Apollos/Aquila-Priscilla **Acts 18:24-28**] And how does God intervene; He filled Cornelius and his household, who are open; ready and willing (“*...we are all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.*” **Acts 10:33**) with the Holy Ghost. How do they know? Did they just look happy; talk of an inner warmth, etc.? No, “*For they heard them speak with other tongues, and magnify God....*” (**Acts 10:46**) I do not think Peter was stunned; but the six Christians that had come with Peter were, by the fact that God, and I repeat, God filled them with the Holy Ghost with the one sign they all recognized; “*speaking in tongues*”; it was obvious that Gentiles could be saved. But just in case the six Jews were not convinced, he challenged them with “*Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?*” (**Acts 10:47, 48**) There was no-way anyone in that house, who had just been filled and thrilled with the Holy Ghost, who was going to protest. If there was going to be a protest, it would come from the other six, who came with Peter. Every one of us

Gentiles that are saved by grace are forever indebted to “*speaking in tongues.*” It was through this action that God demonstrated forever, that He wants to save all mankind.

But Peter, and the six witnesses, still had to face the indignant church at Jerusalem: “...*they that were of the circumcision contended with him, Saying, ‘Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and did eat with them.’*” (Acts 11:2, 3) Peter then rehearsed his vision at Joppa. I wonder if the church at Jerusalem would have accepted just this story, on its own, as proof that the Gentiles were to be saved. I very much doubt that, as some would have said they did not believe him; some would have had their own interpretation of the vision. So what convinced the whole church that now salvation was for all mankind? “*And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. ...Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us ...what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.*” Acts 11:15-18) There is no proof; no heavenly witness; no “stamp of approval” from God if we claim to be filled the Holy Spirit, but do not “speak in tongues.”

Simon the sorcerer was so impressed, when he saw his fellow Samaritans filled with the Holy Spirit, he wanted to buy the power. (Acts 8:9-25) As mentioned in the previous chapter *The Jug or the Jordan*, the twelve John the Baptist disciples, humbled themselves at the preaching of Paul and received the Holy Ghost: “*And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them: and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.*” (Acts 19:6) As you can see it was a common experience among the early church and it is a world-wide experience today.

Some get confused with 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. “*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity (love), ...*” We just need to simply say, that tongues is just one of many important things God asks of us, but love is all important and just because we “*speak in tongues*”, we cannot ignore walking in the Lord in the Spirit; loving God and loving our neighbor. Later in this chapter it talks of the temporal things we do now, that we will not need in the life hereafter. We will not need to “*speak in tongues*”; that is praying in the Spirit, when we are in the Kingdom, as we can walk (fly?) right up to the Lord and talk to Him “*face to face*”. (Verse 12) But right now “*that which is perfect*” has not yet come; the Lord has not yet returned and set up His Kingdom. Tongues; knowledge and prophecy are temporal; “*in part*” or partial; our life in the Christian age, which “*partiality*” will not be needed and will cease, when Jesus sets up the Millennium. Meanwhile we “*speak in tongues*”!

Also there is confusion over the “*sign of speaking in tongues*”, which happens when we receive the Holy Ghost, as documented above in Acts and the “*gift of tongues*” that is exercised in the church. “*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren ...For to one is given by the Spirit...divers (different) kinds of tongues ...*” (1 Corinthians 12:1-10). Everyone receives the Holy Ghost the same way, with the “*sign of speaking in other tongues*”, but not everyone operates the Gift of Tongues in the church. By-the-way, if there is two or more ways of receiving the Holy Ghost (which there is not in the Bible) it would be confusing and you would not have any idea which one was for you! In the latter part of this chapter on the nine Gifts of the Spirit, the question is asked: “*...do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?*” (1 Corinthians 12:30) We are not given an answer in the Bible to these questions, but I dare say the answer is, “No”. All could have these ministries and all could operate the Spiritual Gifts, if we have the Holy Ghost, but in reality, different people in the church have different ministries and differing Gifts. But do we all have “*speaking in tongues*” as a sign we are Spirit-Filled; Oh, yes!

The Spiritual Gifts are a wonderful part of our walk in the Lord. Make sure you attend a fellowship that operates the Gifts of the Holy Ghost on a regular, at least weekly, basis and make sure they are “*decently and in order.*” (**1 Corinthians 14:40**). The Word says “...*let it be by two, or at the most three, and that by course; ...*” (**1 Corinthians 14:27**). There should be a time, during a meeting, that is especially set aside just to operate the nine “voice” gifts (tongues, interpretation and prophecy) The Gifts are a wonderful blessing in the Church. They are for “...*edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*” (**1 Corinthians 14:3**) They are not “The Word of God” (The Word of God is only found in the Bible); but they should always be scripturally based. If you would like to talk more about Spiritual Gifts, email me on jockduncan@iprimus.com.au.

There is, of course, a time and a place for everything. We do not “*speak in tongues*” to give thanks for the bread/cup. That is covered in **1 Corinthians 14**. We do not preach with “*speaking in tongues*”. as Paul said: “***I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:*** (he was not boasting; he just loved doing it!) *Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.*” (**1 Corinthians 14:18, 19**) Ten; twenty; thirty thousand words would all be gibberish to the listener, because “*in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.*” (**1 Corinthians 14:2**) Preaching is in the known language, just like Peter did on the Day of Pentecost. On that day he both spoke in a “*new tongue*”, as he received the Holy Spirit and he also spoke in his own tongue, as he preached to the multitude.

What happens when we are Spirit Filled? Hellen (my wife) always says it was like she was in a house with the lights off and suddenly someone turned on all the lights. My impression was having a camera with a telephoto lens on it and then I put a wide-angle lens on it – from having a very narrow outlook on life, all of a sudden everything is in view and in focus. When we are Spirit Filled we become a “*spiritual thing*” (**1 Corinthians 2:13**) The Word of God is a “*spiritual thing*”, so that now we are also a “*spiritual thing*”, our understanding of the Bible, which was written by the Holy Spirit, is amazing. In **1 Corinthians 2:9**, it talks of what natural man is missing out on, but **verse 10** says: “*But God hath revealed them unto us by the Spirit:...*” In **verse 14** it talks of a person without the Holy Spirit. It does not matter how religious you are; how good you are; if you are not Spirit Filled, then this verse applies: “*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (or understood).*” Does “*speaking in other tongues*” seem “*foolish*”? Do you find these “*things of the Spirit of God*” hard to understand? Then may I suggest you get Spirit Filled and it will all fall into place. This second chapter of **1 Corinthians** has much more on being Spirit Filled.

But probably the most famous chapter on the Holy Spirit and His wonderful benefits would have to be **Romans chapter 8**. There are a couple of important thoughts out of this chapter I would like to mention. When we “*pray in the Spirit*” we receive hidden benefits: “*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities (weaknesses): for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us ... according to the will of God.*” (**Romans 8:26, 27**). And the other point is on how important it is to be Spirit Filled: “...*Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*”(**Romans 8:9**) There is only “*one Spirit*”: (**Ephesians 4:4**), so the Spirit of Christ here is the Holy Spirit, just the same as the Spirit of God, in the same verse of **Romans**, is also the Holy Spirit.

This mighty outpouring of the Latter Rain over the last 100 years, with millions of people (and that is not an exaggeration) being filled with the Holy Ghost with the sign of “*speaking in other tongues*” is the work of God; it is His great revival: no individual or church denomination can claim it as particularly theirs; this is God’s driven revival. I can only encourage you, if this has not yet happened to you, not to delay, but call on the Lord and ask Him to give you this wonderful Gift. If you would like details on how and where to do this, again contact me by email (jockduncan@iprimus.com.au).

Chapter Fourteen – Finally Accepted

As Mum said she had “found a new religion” (Chapter Four *The Calling*); I had a sinking feeling inside me and thought “Oh, no, I thought we had found the truth”. But it was Barend standing there and I really admired him and was thrilled to see him. Being a typical shy teenager, I never made any comment. Barend had been talking to my mother from 10am to 4pm. He had come to “the big smoke” (Adelaide) from Port Lincoln, where I had previously lived as a child, to buy building materials and had dropped in to see us, which he always did when he was in our city. Before he could hardly speak my Mother was talking about Billy Graham, the American Evangelist and the Unley Park Baptist Church we were attending. She told him about us “giving our heart to Jesus” and “making a decision for Christ”. After a while he asked her if she had ever heard of “*speaking in other tongues*”. She replied that she never had; it was pretty rare in those days. (1959)

It was only the Pentecostal Churches who “*spoke in tongues*” from my experience; all the main-line churches were vehemently apposed to “*speaking in tongues*” [I personally think nothing much has changed – many have a “charismatic movement” in their “basement”, but their main platform has never altered] and even went so far as to say it was of the Devil. This is dangerous ground to move onto, as we could be in danger of “*blaspheming the Holy Ghost*” (**Mark 3:22-30**) “*He hath Beelzebub (Satan), and by the prince of devils casteth he out devils....But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, ...Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.*” Jesus basically said that if we **knowingly** (such as a well versed Minister of Religion) attributed the works of the Holy Ghost, such as healing the sick, as works of the Devil, then we were crossing into “blaspheme territory”. It was a pretty common sentiment at the time I heard the Gospel.

This was prior to the Charismatic Movement, which started in the late sixties, where many of the main-line churches “accommodated” people who wanted to “*speak in tongues*”. The main-line churches were losing too many people to the great Latter Rain Revival – the Pentecostal Movement; the “Jesus People”, so they had back room; closed door meetings for the “tongue talkers”. As you might gather, I am not very impressed with the Charismatic Movement. People sometimes receive the Holy Ghost and then decide they cannot leave their old, dead church – they have a big problem with repentance. On Monday night they worship God “in the Spirit” in the “back room”, but on Sunday morning they worship God at the “..., *broken cisterns, which can hold no water.*” (**Jeremiah 2:13**) God’s advice is not to “...*put new wine (the Holy Ghost) into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.*” (**Matthew 9:17**). Many talk of “saving the old church”, but often, what happens, is that they lose “the vision” and get swallowed up in the old religion. I have noticed over the last few decades that the “platform” beliefs of all those main-line churches have not changed one iota; they are just the same and preach many things that are unscriptural. Sometimes the local church has become so Pentecostal, they have either been told to leave by the hierarchy of the church or the local church has broken away because they realize they are “...*unequally yoked together...*” (**2 Corinthians 6:14**) When Saul “the Pharisee” was converted, he became Paul “the Apostle”, totally separate from his old religious ways – he did not become a “Charismatic Pharisee”! God forbid! God’s advice: “*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you...*” (**2 Corinthians 6:17**)

Barend and Mum spent all day discussing the Word and by the time I came home from school, Mum was fairly convinced. It was 4pm when I arrived home and Barend was trying to head-off and buy some building materials. Mum said; “You cannot go until you show him **that** scripture.” We went into the kitchen and Barend sat down at the table and I stood behind him looking over his shoulder. He opened up my Bible, which was resting on the kitchen table and turned to **Mark 16:15-20**. The first thing I noticed was that the passage was underlined in biro. I was stunned; who had “desecrated” my Bible by underlining these scriptures? In the years that followed, I have marked and coloured hundreds of passages in many Bibles, particularly wide-margin editions. Barend pointed to those scriptures (he had underlined the passage) and said “Read that”. As I read the passage, I had a real “pins and needles” sensation go right through me; what we call a “touch from the Lord”. At the time I had no idea what it was. I had been reading my Bible and going to church, but I had never made contact with the Lord. Maybe it was just that this was the first time a Spirit-Filled person had shown me a scripture. I did not fully understand what I read, but instantly two realizations did hit me: Whatever this is talking about I do not have and secondly, I am not yet saved!

I cannot remember much else that happened that day, other than, when my Dad came home from the Freezing Works (the abattoirs), he rode in on his old Velocette motorcycle (a real antique these days – I am talking about the motor bike!). As he got off the bike, Mum rushed into the garage and blurted out “Gordon, you are going to be healed”. Dad had been suffering, for awhile, with Angina, which was a heart condition. He had no idea what she was talking about. The shock of the statement brought on a fresh attack, so while he leaned on the wall of the garage holding his chest, Mum excitedly explained all that Barend had shown her in the Word and all about Divine Healing. Her “prophecy” came to pass later, when Dad was saved; he was healed and to the day he died he did not suffer ever from an angina attack. Barend found out Peter Mullen (previously mentioned in *The Land of Mizraim*) was in town and passing through to Port Lincoln. Barend arranged for himself and Peter to come to our house the next night and talk to us about the Lord.

Mum invited the family (Mrs. Stephens), who introduced us to the local Baptist Church we had been attending and I invited Freddy from school. Freddy and I were the first to talk to Peter shortly after school. Freddy had come to protect his convert (me!). Freddie classed me as his convert from the time he had invited me to attend the big Billy Graham Campaign. Even though I did not actually join his church (The Lutheran Church), he was happy that I was attending another main-line church. But this “tongues issue” was different; this was radical. Well, he and Peter “crossed swords” immediately; I never said anything. Freddy was trying to support infant baptism by quoting the catechism of his particular church, which he was studying at that time. After a while Peter said: “Look, I do not want to be offensive young man, but I am not interested in what the catechism says; all I am interested in, is what the Bible says.” The moment Peter said that, I thought: “Yes, that is right: it is only the Bible that matters”. I said nothing. Well, Freddy got pretty “hot under the collar” and tried desperately to stick with what the catechism said and in frustration said: “But Martin Luther (one of the great reformers) wrote this catechism.” Peter said: “Look, I do not want to be offensive young man, but I do not care who wrote the catechism; I am only interested in what the Bible says and God wrote that!” Again, I was immediately in agreement with Peter (who I had only just met) more than I was with Freddy, even though he was my friend.

Later in the evening, with my whole family present (Mum and Dad and three boys), while Peter and Barend were running through some wonderful, positive scriptures on salvation and Divine Healing, Mrs. Stephens and her two teenage children (the family from the Baptist Church), arrived. She instantly was on the attack: “But what about this...and what about that.....and what about Paul’s “*thorn in the flesh?*” (2 Corinthians 12:7) Each time she threw something at Peter, he would quietly say; “Well, why don’t we turn to that” and he would read it out of the Bible and explain it every time. Firstly, it was amazing to us that he always knew where the passage was, and secondly, his answers were so simple and easy to understand. In frustration the Mrs. Stephens from our church said: “Well, Billy Graham doesn’t “*speak in tongues*” and that is good enough for me!” We (my family) had hardly said anything – it was similar to watching tennis; we just looked from one party to the other and back again. The light was starting to dawn on us as a family. These friends of ours were more loyal to their own beliefs and their own churches, than they were to the Bible. When I went out to the front gate with Freddy, to see him off, he said: “I showed him didn’t I!” I could not agree.

It was one thing to believe what we had been shown, but it was another thing to do anything about what we had heard. Fortunately my Mum and Dad were very hospitable and we always welcomed Peter and another brother Leo Hendrix, to our home. This went on for months and I am very grateful to their persistence. We were still attending the local Baptist Church and I remember getting involved in the Christmas celebrations over the 1959/60 Christmas period. On January the 15th, 1960, my Mother said: “We have a converted Methodist Minister coming tonight to talk to us about the Full Gospel.” I thought “Well, that is more civilized; I would like to hear what he has to say.” Fortunately, Mum had got it wrong; he was just a “lay-preacher”, but at the time it got me to listen. It was Saturday night and very hot, as it can be in Australia. We sat out on the front verandah and talked. It just so happened that my grandmother and step-grandfather and of all people, my mother’s cousin, Joyce, who was the original link with Barend and Ans, were there also.

John Kuhlmann, the converted “lay-preacher”, found he was “under fire” from my relatives. They were very attached to the old, Church of England; the family church. They had been a little upset when we had gone “too” religious of late and “given our heart to Jesus” and joined the Baptist Church. But this “new religion” was totally unacceptable. The “war of words” raged back and forth all evening until about midnight and finally the relatives went home and to my knowledge never, ever came to the Lord. Again, our family (excluding my elder brother, who was away with the RAAF) just listened. John turned to my mother and said: “Why are you just ‘poking at this with a stick’ (Aussie saying); why don’t you get baptized?” Mum said she would. He turned to my Dad and said: “Well, what about you Gordon?” and he said he would and then John turned to me and said” “And you Jock?” and I also said I would. In all the months I had attended the local church, no one had ever asked or suggested we should get baptized.

John wanted us to be baptized right there and then in our bath, but Mum said she would do it the next day in the sea at the local beach. It was just the beginning of our fellowship in Adelaide and there were only a few other Dutchies who had recently been converted through Barend and other Dutch folk, also from Port Lincoln. We were the first Aussies. So next day, the 16th of January 1960, we went down to Brighton, a local beach. The beach was absolutely packed, as the temperature was around 105 degrees Fahrenheit (40 degrees Celsius). I was very nervous. I remember Peter Mullen sitting with me on the beach and explaining **Romans 6:3-5** about being

“buried” in baptism, but I was so nervous, I hardly listed. It was not “cool” as a teenager to be baptized in public. I was chosen to go first. There were about a dozen or so of the saints gathered for the baptism, so they made a circle and Peter and I stood in the middle. Many close-by swimmers thought something had happened, so they gathered around the outside. I was even more embarrassed and nervous. Peter got me to confess my faith and I went under the water. As I came up out of the water, the saints sang “There’s a new name written down in glory....” I was literally the centre of attention and that was never a comfortable place for a shy teenager. I felt like going back under the water and disappearing. Mum and Dad were baptized after me.

That night we went to one of the Dutch families’ home for a “seekers meeting”. Our family was there to seek for the in-filling of the Holy Ghost with the sign of “*speaking in other tongues*”. Everyone got down on their knees and started to earnestly pray. People were saying “Hallelujah; Praise the Lord and Thank you Lord” and those that were already Spirit Filled, began “*speaking in other tongues*”. Peter and John moved around the room praying with folk and especially with myself and my parents, encouraging us to believe and expect a miracle to happen as we were filled with the Holy Spirit. It was very noisy. Even though I had been “wrestling” with the whole concept of “*speaking in tongues*” for months, this was the first time anyone had actually spoken in front of my family. Then came into my mind all the unsolicited negative “advice” I had been given from the Baptist Church. Freddy, at school, was constantly at me. “It is auto-suggestion” (a form of self-hypnosis); “it is mass-hysteria” (big crowd hype); Freddy would say – I do not think either of us had any idea what those terms meant at that time. It was enough for me to doubt. None of us received the Holy Spirit that night and I was a little scared by the whole process.

Fortunately Mum and Dad continued to search out this wonderful truth that had come into our lives. I, personally, went into “no-mans-land”. I left the Baptist Church, as I could see they were just not preaching the Full Gospel. At the same time I was not quite ready to join the new assembly that was forming. This lasted for seven weeks. I became moody, which was not my style. I used to secretly seek for the Holy Spirit in my bedroom, without success and if any member of the family came near my room, I immediately went silent; I was still embarrassed to be heard praying out loud. I was trying to receive on my own, to prove Freddy wrong on the “mass-hysteria” comment.

The next big event was Dad receiving the Holy Ghost on his own, in our little Ford Prefect (God is no respecter of places!). He was down at the local harbor inspecting meat as it was loaded onto a large overseas freezer-ship. In his lunch hour he had gone back to the wee Ford and had simply prayed “If you are there Lord, and you still fill people with the Holy Ghost as you did in Bible days, then fill me right now.” And he immediately “*spoke in tongues*” as the Holy Ghost entered his body and **1 Corinthians 3:16** became a reality. “*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*” There was no “auto suggestion” going on here; Dad was a fairly shy, rational and unemotional person. There was no “mass-hysteria” here; he was on his own. When he came home and told us all, I was stunned and thrilled that quiet old Dad had proved it was all correct; scriptural and above board. But for all that, I still was not quite right and ready myself. It could definitely have been the age I was at the time; seventeen!

On March the 7th, 1960, seven weeks to the day from when I was baptized, I stayed in bed all day, which I think is acceptable for a teenager in the doldrums. It was another Saturday, so I was home from school. But staying in bed all day was almost unheard of for me, unless I was sick. I was sport crazy. It was swimming and tennis in

summer and Aussie Rules Football in winter. I was usually gone really early on a Saturday playing sport in the morning. In the winter, I not only played footy in the morning, but I followed the local League Football team in the afternoon; rain, hail or sunshine. So this was out of character to stay in bed and read a book all day. Mum came in a few times and said: “We have a meeting on tonight: why don’t you come?” I mumbled some incoherent answer and went on reading my book. Finally Dad came in and from the “body language” was quite stirred up. His head was sort of jerking backwards, which happened when he was upset with you. When I was a wee lad that could have spelt out some sort of corporal punishment. But Dad had not laid a finger on us for many years. The “body language” always brought back memories though, so he had my full attention when he spoke! “You’re a nice sought of coot you are: (Aussie slang saying that most probably comes from “bandicoot”, an Australian marsupial) you came and got baptized, but you have never been back. I think you should come tonight.” I rarely went against my parents wishes (most teenagers did not in my day), so I said I would. It was again in another Dutch home. I needed a push – thanks Mum and Dad for not only “hanging-in” for yourselves, but holding the door open for us children as well.

That night Peter Mullen, who had now become the recognized pastor of this small fledgling Pentecostal fellowship, preached on the end of the world; the second coming of the Lord, and Heaven and Hell. I can still remember his comments at the end of his talk: “Hell you get without asking; without doing anything. But Heaven is only for the faithful; for the obedient. Now God is offering you a wonderful chance to enter into his Kingdom; what a fool you would be to knock back His invitation and go to Hell”. That simple logic hit home and when we got down on our knees to pray and seek for the Holy Ghost, I was ready. It was pretty noisy as everyone prayed and “*spoke in tongues*”. Someone right along side me suddenly received and rejoiced. I put my fingers in my ears, to block out the noise, and prayed a similar prayer to what my Dad had and for the second time I felt the “power” (the first time was when I first read Mark 16:15-20) go right through me. Suddenly I burst out “*speaking in tongues*”. My initial thought was a mixture of amazement and relief. My second thought was: “I have made it; I am born again; I am saved the Bible way: I am **finally accepted** as His son and now belong to His Kingdom.”

Some folk have no sensation when they are Spirit Filled; they just speak in a new language, as God gives them the utterance. That is fine; the main thing is to have the “sign following” that Jesus promised to believers in **Mark 16:17**. When the meeting closed that night, I did not want to stop, so I went on praying “*in tongues*”, which literally bubbled out of me like a spring. The rest of the folks had something to eat and a drink and then some started going home. Peter sat down alongside me and said: “Well, old chap, people are going home, so maybe it is time to stop.” It had taken such a long time, in my mind, from the first time Barend had spoken to me to finally receiving the “*tongues*” experience that I did not want to lose the moment, but I did stop and went home on “cloud nine.” I was so excited I had to tell someone, so I sat on my younger brother’s (Mark) bed around mid-night and told him about my experience. He then prayed until 3am and received at that time – he was just twelve.

Many people go through a confused time shortly after getting saved, but I did not – I think I had gone through all my soul searching prior to being Spirit Filled. I never went back to either the Church of England or the Baptist Church. I embraced this small fellowship with open arms. The first “hall” meeting was in an Institute Hall and there were only about 12 folk. The church we had been attending had around 500, but I was so much happier to be with people who really believed the Bible, the

numbers did not worry me. Peter asked if I would like to get to the hall early on Sunday mornings and set the hall up with the chairs, etc. and I became instantly involved and it has not stopped to this day. I hope to either drop into the grave “panting” or be found “so doing” (**Matthew 24:46**) at the second coming of the Lord.

A few days after coming to the Lord, I was put to the test in another way – sport! Now sport was my other “god”. Like many folk, when they come to the Lord, they want to “drag through the waters of baptism” some of their old life. For me it was not religion; it was not drugs, booze or fags; it was sport. The footy season was just starting and I convinced myself that I could handle both walking in the Lord and “serving mammon” (**Luke 16:13**) Now sport in itself is not evil, neither would it be a problem to most people; but to me I “worshipped at the altar” of the “sport god.” Approximately two weeks after coming to the Lord, I came home from school and went into my bedroom and got my footy boots and my footy gear and was heading out through the lounge room to go to footy practice. Right then the door-bell rang. Mum and Dad were home and they ushered in an elder from our old church. He had heard that we had left and seemed particularly concerned that I might not be playing tennis for the church team anymore. Well, one thing led to another, and before we knew where we were, it was on for young and old. We were telling him about our new faith and quoting the few scriptures we knew (**Mark 16: John 3 and Acts 2**). He was getting pretty hostile and yelling “All you have to do is “be washed in the Blood” over and over again. I do not think he quoted one scripture and he did not really have an answer for any of the scriptures we were quoting. He would storm out to his car; he would then think of something else to say and would come charging back into the lounge room. Mum and even my shy Dad were in the conversation, as well as me. I was amazed at how little he knew or understood and at the same time wondered at how the Word had come alive to us. This happened three times. Two hours had passed by the time the elder left... It was way past time to go to football practice. I took that as an answer from the Lord and never went again. I still like hitting a tennis ball around now and again or kicking a footy, but the Lord is number one and the other is just a recreation time-out.

I was accepted into God’s Kingdom, but the friends and the relatives were horrified. We eventually lost contact with most of our relatives, as they just hated us talking about the fellowship and the Lord. I had three close friends/boys, of my age, at the time of my conversion: the boy from the church; my doubles partner in tennis and Freddy. Each one, in his own way, said they did not like the “new me”. Freddy could not handle me quoting scriptures about the Holy Ghost. Before I was Spirit Filled, he would often win a debate on “*speaking in tongues*”, by saying; “Well, you do not know the Bible like I do” and I would have to admit he was right. But from the moment I was Spirit Filled the Word just bubbled out of me and he eventually, along with the other two boys, gave me an ultimatum: “You either stop talking about this “new religion” or our friendship is over.” I am still talking! I now have thousands of “relatives”; brothers and sisters in the Lord; they are my new family and I have so many friends I can never keep up with them all.

Chapter Fifteen – The Big Four (Five?)

It was not long after my walk in the Lord started that I realized that there were four basic things that really helped me in the Lord and I still do not do any of them enough. They are: **Reading the Word**; **Praying** both in English (my language) and in the Spirit (“*speaking in other tongues*”); **Fasting** and finally, **Witnessing**. I was not just “joining a church” and going once a week for one hour. This was full on; total involvement; often going to four or five meetings a week – that has never altered in over forty years. Life really “buzzes” when I am involved in these four.

To listen to a few scriptures read out at “church” on Sunday is not enough; you are starving yourself in the Lord, particularly when you are a “babe in Christ”: (**1 Peter 2:2** “*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you might grow thereby.*”) Most of us that are Spirit Filled have this overwhelming desire to devour the Word. I can remember **reading the Word**, during my lunch hour, at the first job I had after leaving school. I do not advise this to everyone, but from the moment I came to the Lord, I found I could not concentrate on schoolwork and again that was totally out of character. Shortly after being Spirit Filled, my first term results, were poor. For three years I had been near the top of the class, purely through concentration and hard work. There was a brother (Leo Hendrix, already mentioned) in the fellowship at the time and he was a bachelor around his early thirties and he lodged with one of the Dutch families (he was Dutch himself) and lived in a small room in the back yard of their house. After getting my bad results, I cycled around to his wee flat and had a chat with him about things. Leo had only been in the Lord for about six months prior to my conversion, but his Bible was a mass of coloured in passages; underlining and cross-referencing to other chapters; verses and books of the Word. He just “devoured” the Word; he was great to talk to and discuss scripture. After listening to my sad tale, he said: “Why don’t you leave school and get a job?” I was stunned that an adult would suggest such a thing, but I realized, in my case at the time, it was good advice. Years later, when I was married with three children; a mortgage and a full time job, I went and got an education. It was quite difficult, but I succeeded.

So I went home and said to Dad that I was thinking of leaving School. I thought he would be upset and try to talk me into staying, but all he said was: “You had better go and get a job”; I had forgotten that he also was Spirit Filled and the things of this world were not quite as important as they had previously been. I did just that and left school. As I said previously, I can remember heading out into a paddock near the factory where I worked and sitting on some old rusty steel and whipping-out my “dagger” (small New Testament) and reading the Word for most of the lunchtime.

I would often **pray** at the same time. Before I was saved, I would pray to a distant God. Now He was right there with me. Prayer is a very instant and natural (spiritual?) thing to the Spirit Filled. Jesus is so much more a personal; an everyday friend. You never know when you are going to need the Lord. I can remember a time once when our middle child had some sort of choking experience and stopped breathing. Hellen and I were instant in prayer and she was raised up – you either have the Lord right there with you at a time like that or you do not. I am a “all over the place” prayer. I admire brothers and sisters that have a set time and pray for a half an hour or an hour every day. I tend to pray “on the run”; life gets pretty hectic most days. Either way prayer is our constant contact with God and Jesus. As mentioned in

the chapter *The Great Controversy*, when you pray “*in tongues*” you edify and uplift yourself. Paul obviously enjoyed this wonderful, spiritual contact “*in the Spirit*” (1 **Corinthians 14:18**) with the Lord and so should we. The Bible in 1 **Thessalonians 5:17** says “*Pray without ceasing*”. Some people’s prayers are full of “I need”; I want” “Can you do this or that for me.” God does not mind us praying for ourselves, but He wants us to think of others and pray for them. (1 **Timothy 2:1** “*I (Paul) exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ...*”) Finally on prayer, always be thankful and not a “grisly-grump”: “*Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*” (Philippians 4:6)

I personally do not enjoy **fasting**, but like many unpleasant things in life, there are some great benefits. Fasting really adds to our prayer life. We remove all distractions, even eating, and concentrate more on the task at hand. “*...This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.*” (Mark 9:29) I did a few long fasts in my early days in the Lord; I would “hype” myself up for months prior to the event. These days I find one day difficult! But for all that we fast regularly in our fellowship. The fast of the Lord brings wonderful rewards “*...to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?*” (Isaiah 58:6) Again, we had one of our children in trouble years ago. She was admitted to hospital with a nasty infection and the doctors hinted that something more sinister was at the root of the problem. Hellen and I instantly prayed and fasted, and shortly thereafter the hospital phoned us and said we could come and pick her up, as she was now fine. On inquiring at what had been the problem, they just did not seem to be interested in discussing the matter any further! When we fast we just stop all food in solids and fluids and just drink water. Years ago I gave up coffee and tea (except on rare occasions and no it is not “against my religion!”) mainly because I often developed thumping head-aches from caffeine withdrawals on days of prayer and fasting. If you have never tried fasting, try it out for one or two meals. If there is any doubt medically, you must check with your doctor first.

Witnessing is the “life blood” of any Christian, or for that matter, any church. For those that are Spirit Filled I will ask you a question – “Is there anything more rewarding and satisfying than talking to an unsaved person about the Gospel?” For those of us that have enjoyed that thrill, the answer will definitely be “No!” Witnessing surpasses all other enjoyments in life. The Apostle Paul felt life was not worth living, unless he was involved in evangelism: “*...for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!*” (1 **Corinthians 9:16**) I have had some people who talk about “their religion” as personal and private; they never discuss it with anyone. What a shame! Jesus stated: “*No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, ...but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.*” (Luke 11:33) In 2 **Timothy 2:15** Paul encouraged Timothy to: “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” The best way to “study” the scriptures is to go “into the Market Place” and witness to all and sundry. Top soccer players and top basket ball players handle the “round ball” constantly. When we are witnessing we are handling the Word of God; it becomes part of us; an extension of our arm. We have difficult questions thrown at us and we have to find the answers. Just reading the Bible daily will only provide limited knowledge, but wielding the Word as a sword, we will become a soldier for God, wading into Satan’s territory, as we tell the unsaved the Gospel.

My mother just “lived” for Personal Evangelism. She has passed away now. Actually both my parents have passed away “in the Lord”. Dad lived only eight years in the Lord, but he certainly caused a stir when he died. My father was very good at English. It was difficult to catch him out on unusual English words, I asked him once if I could buy him a book – he asked for a Dictionary to “read”! When he was asked to “give a testimony” (standing up in a meeting and telling briefly how he came to the Lord), he would always give it a lot of thought and use some of his excellent knowledge of the English Language. On the day he died he was asked to give his testimony. He had been having some trouble with one of his hips, so as he stood, he was hanging onto the chair in front of him. He had progressed from a brief description of his previous life and was just talking about being baptized and Spirit Filled, when the main artery to his heart burst. He seemed to firstly just hesitate for one or two seconds, with a puzzled look on his face and then he went over like a newly cut tree. I thought his hip had just given out. Do not be discouraged by this account or fear giving your testimony: I have heard “millions” of people give their testimony and have never seen this repeated.

As you can imagine it disrupted the meeting. It took us a while to work out that he was actually dead. We took him down to the local hospital and that fact was confirmed. After the initial shock, I started to go over the events of my father’s short life in the Lord. It was Dad and I who had first gone to the Billy Graham Campaign and started the family search for the Lord. It was Dad who first received the Holy Spirit while praying in the old family car. Both Mum and Dad were prolific readers of the Word and would wear out Bibles on a regular basis. So when I reflected on his life in the Lord and the way he died, I could only rejoice. It was certainly a loss to my family and to our local assembly, but what a wonderful way to go to be with the Lord – standing and giving your testimony!

Mum lived for over thirty five years in the Lord and spent most of her spare time witnessing. When she was quite old, she would buy a cheap, all day pension bus fare, and just ride the buses of our city, going no-where in particular and witness to whoever she sat along-side. Mum witnessed to a wonderful friend and college of mine in my local fellowship. Rex Haese was a Real Estate Manager and Salesman. Mum was thinking of moving-house to a near-by town from our city. Rex picked her up and showed her a couple of houses. Mum planned her “attack” and made another appointment. On telephoning for the appointment, the receptionist informed her that Rex was busy and that another salesman would pick her up. Mum insisted on Rex and eventually Rex picked her up and they set forth for this satellite-town, which was approximately an hour’s drive. This was the perfect opportunity “made” by my mother to witness to Rex. He listened for a while and then thought he would use his old favorite “put down” that always worked on “Bible Bashers”. He said: “Mrs Duncan, I have made it a policy that I never discuss two things; Politics or Religion.” On this occasion it did not work; Mum was a “hardened, experienced, veteran” in this type of “war-fare.” She instantly answered: “Well, isn’t that amazing: you never discuss Politics, which is all about this life on earth and you never discuss Religion, which is all about the life hereafter. Then what is there left to talk about?” Rex was not ready for that answer and many hours later he agreed to come to a meeting. He and his wife Thelma have been saved now for over thirty five years. [At the time of the first revision of this book, brother Rex has recently passed away. He was a pastor in our fellowship for many years and was greatly admired and now greatly missed by hundreds of his local flock]

Make your life really “tick”; become a consummate personal evangelist. When Ezekiel was instructed to preach to the Children of Israel that were captives in Babylon, the Lord described what he was up against: “*And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions, be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, ...Behold I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not...*” (**Ezekiel 2:6 and 3:8, 9**). It is worth “the fight”; the “victories” are for eternity!

Solomon in the Proverbs had six main points on things God hated. Solomon then added another one to the list, which in this case was the most profound: “...*he that soweth discord among brethren.*” (**Proverbs 6:16-19**) Well I would like to add a fifth to my **Big Four** above, which also is quite profound and controversial. I am talking about our walk in the Lord and things that really add to the quality of that life. **Number five is on Tithing.** I realize many preachers capitalize on Christian vulnerability and thump the pulpit on how Christians must tithe (pay a tenth of their income to the church/preacher), but it is very obvious that their religion has become a “money-making-racket”. The “preacher” ends up living a very lavish life-style; top hotels and flashy clothes and constantly leaning on the generosity of their converts by preaching a “you tithe and you will prosper” doctrine. I am not talking about that “con-man-ship” preaching. The Apostle Paul was a wonderful example – some modern “evangelists” should take note: “*If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?...But I have used none of these things:...What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.*” (**1 Corinthians 9:11, 15, 18**). It is the “abuse” of this part of the Gospel that is so upsetting. I believe busy Pastors of the Church should be supported, where possible, but they should always remember to set a good example – “middle of the road” always seems wise to me.

When I introduce tithing as my fifth “quality of spiritual life in the Lord”, I am talking about supporting your local fellowship, the Bible way. Tithing in the Old Testament was compulsory: “*Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings....Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*” (**Malachi 3:8-10**) To have an attitude of “I will tithe, so that I can become rich”, is not what this verse is advocating. Number one, we tithe unto God. Number two, we tithe to support the church and all its expenses. Number three, if the church is big enough, we do not want to “muzzle the ox” (**1 Corinthians 9:9, 10**); we want to support our oversight, who minister unto us the Word of God. I believe that “tithers” are blessed of God and that you can never “out-give” God, but the blessings can come in many ways; good health; happiness; satisfaction with life in general, not just in “cold-cash.”

Tithing in the New Testament is not compulsory. We “do it unto the Lord” by faith. Tithing still seems to be the best, Bible way, to support a Church. I would say that most people, who tithe, have to do it by faith. If we have a low income or are on a pension, and yet we tithe, it is obvious that we do that very much by faith. But over the years I have come to realize that whatever our income, we mostly live right up to the limit of that income. The couple who both work and where the children have left home, still live to the limit of their income, with daily expenses and savings for the

“retirement”. They also have to tithe by faith. When we give, we get a double blessing. It supplies the needs of the Church and we feel good “in our soul”. Become a regular “tither” and receive the blessings.

Chapter Sixteen – Romance at Bullock Creek?

Finding a “life long partner” is one of most daunting and difficult things to do and then also to get it right. From a preacher’s point of view, it was essential that my “soul-mate” was compatible and capable of the “on-the-road” way of life of the Pentecostal Preacher. I first became involved with “preaching” when I was still nineteen – I had been saved for approximately eighteen months. According to **1 Timothy 3:1-7** “...A *bishop* (shepherd, pastor)...*must be...the husband of one wife...One that ruleth well his own house...*” I was really interested in the whole subject and concept (of finding a wife), but was very shy when it came to the “fairer gender”.

About two months prior to my first efforts as a preacher, I met Hellen. She was the sister-in-law of two of the oversight in our small fledgling assembly: John Kuhlmann (who encouraged us to be baptized – see chapter *Finally Accepted*) – and Geoff Capon, were married to Janet and Lorraine respectively. Just prior to meeting Hellen, Lorraine showed me a photograph of Hellen, who lived inter-state (Victoria) and said that she thought her sister was very nice (hint! hint!). I agreed! I was looking forward to meeting her, as she was coming over to stay with her two sisters during the September School Holidays in 1961. I was nineteen and she was fifteen.

Peter Mullen, our Pastor, was always a bit of a character and would tease me about girls. Even though I was seventeen when I was converted, I was very “green” when it came to the “ways of the world”. These days most seventeen year olds have “done it all”; but not then. Peter would talk about the “lamp treatment”. He would say: “You are just walking through life, innocent and minding your own business, when, suddenly; ‘cap-pow!’ you would be hit by these two big orbs. They would be some young ladies eyes, that would be fixed on you and from that point on you were a ‘goner’.” He went on to explain that from that time you would be useless; that you would be in a daze, with a silly grin on your face and dreamy look in yours eyes.

I was all excited on this particular Friday Night House Meeting, because Hellen was to be there (great spiritual attitude!). And sure enough I received the full “lamp treatment” that night. Because I was pathetically shy, I did nothing, other than look back “across the room”. Later Lorraine, when Hellen had returned inter-state, realized that I was “hooked”, so to add to my torment, she pointed out that Hellen had many admirers and already had a “friend”.

Two months later I set forth, as we say here in Aussie, to “ave-a-go-mate”. I went back to Port Lincoln, where I grew-up, to be involved in the oversight of that wee assembly. Barend and Ans were part of the fellowship. I was called an “elder”, at the ripe old age of 19! I boarded with the main member of the oversight, who was nick-named Gus. I was there for ten months, from November, 1961 to September 1962. I was very busy and involved both in pastoral work and with “out-reaching” to nearby towns, so I did not have too much time to think if I was lonely. There were a few girls locally and sometimes I would take one of them, on the back of my motorcycle to witness to some of her friends. There was one wonderful, stunning girl in the assembly. In my childhood years, we lived next door to each other and I had a “secret” boy-hood crush on her, as a kid. Her name was Nina Colopy. She had recently won the local beauty contest. There was a problem here though; she was married, so that ruled her out. I often thought of Hellen, but she was far away and already had many admirers, so what hope did I have?

There was one girl I really admired in an out-lying town, where we were holding small, out-reaching meetings. She also had a boy friend, but on one occasion

she had a tiff with him and I had a lapse of “loyalty” to my sentiments towards Hellen and thought for a whole day that she and I could become closer friends. Next day she “made-up” with her boyfriend and later married him!

After ten months I moved back to Adelaide and boarded with my elder brother (Ben) and his wife. They talked about going interstate to visit the McConechys; Hellen’s Mum and Dad, who lived on a Dairy Farm, near Barwon Heads, in Victoria. I suddenly announced that I was going with them! They had a small Vee-Dub, which was needed for them and the camping-gear, so I said I would travel on my old AJS 500 Twin motorcycle. It was in the middle of summer and very hot, but nothing stopped me! When we visited the farm, there was Hellen, just come in on her bicycle and looking.....Well that’s private! She offered for all of us to go out that night “spot-lighting” on the back of the farm Ute, to shoot foxes and rabbits. Hellen was driving and I gathered she was pretty new at that experience. She suddenly said, looking at the gauges: “How far does a Ute go when the petrol gauge is on empty?” I immediately responded “Well, it won’t go at all, unless you change down gears”. Later Ben gave me a lecture and pointed out that if I wanted to win over this young lady, then that was not a very good start.

We came and went quite a lot over a two to three week period. We had driven up to one of Australia’s big Hydro Dams in the Snowy River Scheme to do some trout fishing and Ben asked if I wanted to go back to the Dairy Farm. Well, you can guess the answer. Hellen and I were now quite friendly, with other folk around, but fairly tongue-tied (more on my part) when alone.

When I got home, I decided to write to her – she lived about four hundred and fifty miles (approximately 700 kilometers) away. We wrote for over a year. I started off not knowing the unusual spelling of her name (Hellen with two “ll’s”), so I got that wrong. I started with “Dear Helen; then I progressed to Dearest Hellen and then onto My Dearest Hellen. I was very bold hiding behind “print”. As I became more animated, she wrote and said: “Why don’t we just be friends for the time being?” She was still at school, so I backed off a little. (Hellen is not convinced I did!)

Hellen’s Mum and Dad moved to Marong, just outside Bendigo, Victoria and I decided it was time to visit them and try and get a commitment from Hellen. She was working by this time in her parents General Store/Post Office/Exchange. A local boy had shown interest in Hellen and invited her out. There was hardly any fellowship where they now lived and this boy was just a lad in town and not in the Lord. Fortunately (for me) Hellen asked her Dad if she could go out with this lad (seems so archaic these days) and Mac said: “No!” This helped my “case” when I turned up. It was pretty obvious to Hellen and her Mum and Dad why I was there!

Now I had a problem. For the time I had been in the Lord, I had run into many Spirit Filled people from many Pentecostal Churches. Some believed it was necessary to do the “Big Three” (**Acts 2:37, 38**); to be saved the “Peter way”, while others were not much different to many of the main-line churches. Even though they were Spirit Filled themselves, they said all you had to do was “give your heart to Jesus”; “make a decision for Christ”, etc. to be saved and that Repentance; Water Baptism and the infilling of the Holy Spirit were unnecessary and only the “icing-on-the-cake”. I believe that they are “the cake!”. Now I had become convinced that if a person was already Spirit Filled, but did not believe it was important or necessary, then you would never change their opinion. I had “debated” this point with many people and had never seen anyone change, once they were already Spirit Filled.

Now Hellen had been fellowshiping, off and on, with some local Pentecostals and I was worried that she might have changed the other way and that the “call on the

Lord only” idea was the way to go now. I did not want to be married (that is where I wanted this relationship to head) to someone who believed this watered-down doctrine and that we would spend our life debating this all important subject. In the forty plus years that I have been a Pentecostal, I have watched with sadness many in the Pentecostal Movement, in their efforts to be accepted in the “Christian Fraternity” ; back-peddle more and more on the Gospel that Paul preached: *“But though we, or and angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:6-12)* I just do not hear them quoting the actual scriptures on salvation, but are far happier to quote the modern, man-made ‘gospel’.

So before I really committed myself to Hellen, I had to “check her out”. If she had not answered correctly, I was going to quietly disappear and she most probably would have never known what went wrong. I did not want to lead her on falsely, but I also did not want to argue with her on the subject, because from my previous experiences doing that, it had been totally unfruitful. I am not so convinced on this point these days, as I have witnessed some folk come to realize the importance of the Word over their pet beliefs. Even though I had become deeply in love with Hellen, I was not going to allow that to over-ride our, all important, walk in the Lord.

We went for a walk down a country lane near Marong and I was racking my brains on how to bring up the subject. It is not what young people in love usually talk about. We were walking along a wee creek and suddenly came to a bridge across the creek. The creek was Bullock Creek. We stood on the bridge and gazed down into the stream. I suddenly said to Hellen: “What do you need to do to be saved?” She asked me what I meant. I said: “You know, the actual things you need to do, when you have come to believe on the Lord and you want to be saved.” She has told me since she thought it was the dumbest question she had been asked by somebody in the Lord. She said: “Well, you repent and are baptized and the Lord fills you with the Holy Ghost”. I was still not satisfied, even though that was the answer I was looking and hoping to hear. So I said: “Is there any other way you can be saved?” Again she thought that also was a dumb question. She answered “Not that I have ever heard!”. Our whole romance and future together hung in the balance at Bullock Creek. Hellen passed muster.

It was not until months later, after Hellen moved to my city and boarded at the local Nursing Home while she trained to be a Nurse, that I finally got up the courage, to ask Hellen to marry me. I needed some encouragement from Hellen to get to that point. We have now been married for over forty years and both still believe what we heard when we first came to the Lord. If you are single and looking for a life-time friend and partner in the form of a husband/wife, then make sure on the “spiritual” side first. Physical attraction is important (essential!); compatibility is vital; you should be “best friends”, but as important, if not more important, is “spiritual compatibility”. The old fashioned type of courtship allowed people to “get to know” each other. I would never advocate “living together” prior to marriage, as that is immoral and unacceptable to God. A happy marriage in the Lord is about the most happy state of existence on earth, but an un-happy marriage **in the Lord** (remember, it is for life!) is about the most un-happy existence. It is worth taking your time prior to the “I do” statement and making sure you want to live together until death or the Second-Coming. One final comment on marriage. It goes without saying that love is the most important ingredient, but **respect for each other**, and each other’s opinions, is a very close second.

Chapter Seventeen – Unto the Uttermost

Mark 16:15 has always had a big impact on my life; it was the first verse of the Bible I read under the direction of a Spirit Filled person. “*And he (Jesus) said unto them, Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*” Over the last forty years or so, Hellen and I have gone “out for the Lord” a number of times. Like most Pentecostals, we have seen some great revivals. Just after we were married (1964), we went and lived on Kangaroo Island, off the South Coast of South Australia. It was a new farming area, where some WW11 returned soldiers, had each been granted some land. They were called “Soldier Settlers”. When we arrived on the Island, we found work and accommodation on an old established farm. I was 22 and Hellen was 18. We were in contact with about 7 Spirit Filled saints, who had come to the Lord recently, through contacts with our fellowship on the mainland.

We held meetings in Claude and Trudy Baohm’s farm house. They were some of the most exciting and rewarding times we have had in the Lord. Over a two month period we baptized over twenty people; nearly all soldier settlers and their families. We started to pack the living area out in this farm house. There were nearly always new people at the meetings. Hellen and I were so young, but it was God that blessed that time and gave the increase. It was a real case of “...*And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*” (**Acts 2:47**). Even though that was over 40 years ago, many of those saints are still around, but mainly on the mainland these days. Many of their descendants, up to the fourth generation, are walking in the Lord.

Hellen and I have been involved in many other revivals, but mainly in a team, which is where I always feel most comfortable; one sowing and another watering. (**1Corinthians 3:1-9**) “*I (Paul) have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.*” In our courting days, during the “letter writing” stage, Hellen and I dreamed about going overseas as missionaries. I remember India or one of the Pacific Islands (Tonga?) was discussed. I really admire westerners who migrate to third-world countries and live in very difficult circumstances as missionaries. I found out how “soft” I was by migrating to New Zealand in 1983 and living in the beautiful city of Christchurch, in the South Island. I found that hard enough and yet the Kiwis and the Aussies are so very similar and have a standard of living and culture, much like ours. I do not think I could have handled living in a grass or mud hut!

Our fellowship has become more and more involved in overseas missions. We adopted a different approach to missions. We do not “send the white man” into the “darkest jungles”, but we rather support the local people and treat them with respect and equal status to ourselves. We mainly support them financially (Western Wealth) and encourage them in every way to become self-supporting eventually and also support them with visits from our oversight and also many of our brethren. Sometimes we have large rallies, where our Aussie brethren (or American or European brethren) will pour into a place/town and witness on the streets along with the local people.

Our fellowship has witnessed an enormous revival in PNG; in the twenty to thirty thousand category. It was all through converting one PNG native (Pastor Godfrey Wippon) here in Australia in the early 1980’s and he, and his family, returning to their native land and praying for the sick. Miracles started to happen all over the many provinces of PNG. Parts of PNG are divided into religious groups and it is mainly those denominations that are found in each area. This revival that I am talking about refused to be confined to a particular area and broke into most of the provinces. Often at our twice yearly rallies in PNG that last about a week, we see 400 to 500 people baptized and Spirit Filled. While the “*stiff necked and rebellious*”

(**Deuteronomy 31:27**) westerners often miss out, many of these native peoples are flocking to the Lord. The only way many people in the western-world will go “to church” is for the church to become an “Entertainment Centre”, but often the Gospel content is very low, because the oversight are too frightened to preach the Full Gospel in case it “offends”. As preachers we should always preach “before God”; to please God, even though we are actually preaching to mankind: “*For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.*” (**Galatians 1:10**) The end result in many churches is a congregation that has never really been converted. If someone stood up and dared to preach as Paul did in Bible days, it would most probably clear the place out (but the “Lord’s sheep” would rejoice!): “*For I (Paul) have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*” (**Acts 20:27**)

It is wonderful to be involved and associated with true Holy Ghost revivals in other countries, such as the Pacific Islands; Africa and South America. **Acts 1:8** says: “But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and **unto the uttermost part of the earth.**” God is still prolonging (or it seems that way to us that constantly expect His arrival “*in the clouds*”) the Second Coming: “...*not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*” (**2 Peter 3:9**).

There is a constant call from God: “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them...Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*” (**Matthew 28:19, 20**) But there never seems to be enough troops for the battle. “...*The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few: Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*” (**Matthew 9:37, 38**)

If you are a man (age is not a problem) that feels he could have what it takes to be a Pentecostal Preacher, then the Lord is calling you “into the harvest”. Yes, we need to look through Jesus’ eyes and see the harvest as He sees the harvest: “...*Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, (rewards).*” (**John 4:35, 36**). It is often really hard work and when you are “under-fire” from within and without the church, at times, you wonder if it is all worth the struggle. It is impossible to put enough value/price on a soul saved for God. It is worth the struggle.

I never ever went to a Bible College. Not that I am against study; I have done quite a bit of that in my time, but I still feel the “school of hard knocks” is the best training you can ever obtain: “*But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.*” (**Galatians 1:11, 12**) Just going out, in faith, and “having a go”. Colleges tend to “pump out” clones of the teachers. We are each very different and our “differences” in style and presentation (not doctrine) make for an interesting preacher. God is “heaven-bent” on saving the “who-so-ever”; but he is relying on us to step out in faith and “go”!

Chapter Eighteen – Weighed in the Balance

Beltshazzar, the last King of Babylon, was: “...weighed in the balances, and...found wanting.” (**Daniel 5:27**) Balance in our lives is often difficult to find. Mankind often tends towards extremes. For those of us who are parents, trying to get the balance between discipline and love is (or has been in our case) a constant struggle. If one tends to only constantly be down on ones children, with little love and affection, then we have children who are fearful and nervous. If we only “love” them, with little or no correction and where the child actually takes control, you end up with a very insecure; grizzly, always crying and out of control child. Being a parent is endeavoring to get the balance right and it is a “life of the child” struggle. I am sure one never gets it perfectly right, but we must always try to get this balance between love and affection on one side and then correction and discipline on the other side.

Christianity is also a balancing act. Christianity is also full of extremes, that need to be balanced out. James and John wanted to “...command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them ...” when the Samaritans would not receive them. But Jesus pointed out that they were totally incorrect in the assessment of their dilemma: “...Ye know not what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.” (**Luke 9: 54-56**) What a simple answer; they just moved onto another town. Sometimes we “...strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.” (**Matthew 23:24**)

One of the hardest things to get right in the church is Mercy and Judgment. It would certainly seem that the people who wanted to stone the woman taken in adultery were not on the same wave-length as the Lord. (**John 8:1-11**) Somehow or other they had become more judgmental than God. They were also unbalanced in their judgment. If it was, as they reported, a situation where she was caught “...in the very act...” (**Verse 4**), then where was the man? The oversight of an assembly is doing the “parenting act” constantly, endeavoring to get the balance right. If they become totally authoritarian and overbearing, casting people out of the church for every, even minor infraction, then that is an oppressive assembly and the saints start to live in fear of “stepping out of line”. Diotrephes in **111 John** is an example of this type of “off with their heads” leadership: “I (Apostle John) wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, **who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, casteth them out of the church.**” (**Verses 9, 10**)

On the other hand, if you have an oversight that never corrects or “thumps the pulpit” when troubles or corruption are in the church, then we end up with a “Laodicean” church. (**Revelations 3:14-22**) We can arrive at a state of “lukewarmness” from two different directions. We can be cold and dead, and warm up a bit (Charismatic Movement?) or we can be on fire and then cool-off - this is where Pentecost has to be careful. If they start to cater too much to the “society in which we live” syndrome and trying to “keep everybody happy”, so we do not discipline or correct such things as smoking and drinking; taking drugs and turn a “blind eye” to people living in immoral relationships, then the “Laodicean rot” has set into our church. It is amazing that so many churches are now condoning immoral relationships; people of the same gender living together and even talking of “marriage”. Marriage between people of the opposite gender is the only relationship

that God recognizes and His Word never changes with what is “acceptable in society”.

Another area where we need balance is within ourselves. Life can throw a few “curly” ones at us at times. We live in a “hostile environment” and if we do not keep our eyes constantly on the Lord and walk in the Spirit, bitterness, in particular, can really get its roots into our soul and we can see our “*joy in the Lord*” disappear. My observations, over the years as a preacher, are that bitter people are also people who criticize a lot. They seem to go hand in hand. The sad thing is that I have also observed that they are mostly unaware of there “bittercism” (a word I have invented that covers both bitterness and being critical). “*Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God: lest any **root of bitterness** springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*” (**Hebrews 12:15**). It can eat away at us and we find we are talking to other brethren, to get their support and before we know where we are, we are off to “greener pastures”. For a while everything is “rosy” and this new group has “love”, but our problem of “bittercism” is still with us and before long we find we have become “church tasters”. As soon as the new church does not face up to “our standard”, we are off again. We sometimes become totally “self controlled” and everyone else has it wrong and only we have it right! We are a “law unto ourselves”; we do not fit anywhere and then, sometimes, we fellowship on “our own”.

The truth of the matter is that we were not originally “diligent” in rooting out “bittercism”; we let it fester and grow. For those who continue on this downward path, they find they end up without any fellowship and no longer have “a pastor” they can respect. “*Let the elders that rule well be counted **worthy of double honour**, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.*” (**1 Timothy 5:17**) “Bittercism” can eventually destroy us spiritually. People say “I don’t need a church” to walk with the Lord. Wrong! The very God you are worshipping, is the same God that established the church. We need a pastor who will care for our wellbeing: “*Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: **for they watch for your souls**, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*” (**Hebrews 13:17**) I would never advocate that you “obey” a pastor who starts preaching his own doctrines and philosophies, that are contrary to the Bible, but if the pastor is upholding the Word and your problem is more “personal”, then you should take stock of your attitude and position. I quoted the verse in Proverbs in chapter *The Big Four (Five?)*, but made no comment then: “*These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him; ... **and he that soweth discord among brethren.***” (**Proverbs 6:16-19**). We should never “draw away disciples after” (**Acts 20:30**) ourselves. If we have a problem, the worst thing we can do is influence others and drag them into our “bittercism”. For all that, it often happens. “*Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts.*” (**Proverbs 21:2**) We have to “protect this heart of mine” as the song says. We must root out all bitterness and criticism.

One final comment on getting the right balance. Every doctrine and belief must be checked with the whole Bible. One scripture on its own; sometimes out of context, can really head us in the wrong direction. As previously quoted, we have to “*rightly divide the word of truth.*” (**2 Timothy 2:15**). Should we allow what is most popular in the world of religion to be the rule of truth? It is becoming more and more popular for women to become pastors/ministers. The word is clear on this point: “*But I suffer (permit) not a woman to teach, nor usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.*” (**1 Timothy 2:12**) Do we over-ride the Word, because it is now popular and acceptable? Is God ever “out of date”; behind the times? It is becoming more and

more acceptable for people of the same gender to live together and be welcomed into the church in this state. Again the Bible is clear on this point: “*Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:...*” (**Romans 1:21-32**) (And there is much more in this chapter on this subject) We have to be careful we have not “*...changed the truth of God into a lie...*” (**Verse 25**).

Abortion is wide-spread in our world these days. We live in a very selfish society; everything must be for our pleasure and for our comfort. I am so glad that abortion was not commonly accepted when I was a wee unborn fellow, otherwise I may not be around today! It is, of course, very acceptable for people to live together unmarried. Should we change our teaching and beliefs, because this is so popular and acceptable? The Bible simply calls it fornication and those that practice it, along with a lot of other “*works of the flesh*” will “*not inherit the kingdom of God.*” (**Galatians 5:19-21**)

We must be separate from the world and from false christianity. I am not the first to say: “The world is so churchy and the church is so worldly, that it is hard to find any difference”.

Chapter Nineteen – A Good Report

Before I became a Born-Again Christian I thought all the miracles and wonders of the Bible were a thing of either the past, way back 2,000 years plus or way, way in the future; in heaven. From the moment of having my first real miracle, which was receiving the Holy Ghost with the “*sign of speaking in other tongues*”, I knew that miracles, signs and wonders were happening right here and now. I have heard many thousands (and that is not an exaggeration) of wonderful testimonies of the miraculous workings of God.

Jack Clay would have to be one of the most wonderful and loving guys I ever met. He was a returned seaman (Merchant Navy) from WW11. He used to tell stories of dropping large No.10 tins of jam through the bottom of the small Arab boats that came out “hawking” their wares to the ships in the Suez Canal. Jack was a villain (in the nicer sense – not sure that the folk in the boats thought so!). He was also the local SP Bookie (illegal TAB). He was running a Guest House at the time he was witnessed to in 1950. A Gospel Meeting was going on in the large living room of their guest house at Point Lonsdale, Victoria, one night, but Jack did not want to be there. He was a Ham Radio buff, so he went out to his radio room, to send and receive a few messages. Suddenly there was a bit of a flash and the radio shorted out; Poof! Jack later said he thinks God put his finger in the set and caused a short circuit so that he would go back into the Guest House and hear the Word. Jack listened and came to the Lord.

Shortly after coming to the Lord, he and his family were heading off to a meeting when he had a sudden attack of tic douloureux (trigeminal neuralgia), which causes sudden excruciating facial pain often accompanied with a severe headache. There is no guaranteed cure and these days drugs some times help. In 1950 it was prayer or nothing. Jack knew what he was about to endure and turned to his wife and children saying: “Hold on a minute, while I go and seek the Lord and get rid of this by prayer.” He went back into the house and got down on his knees and sought the Lord earnestly. He was totally healed and never suffered with this dreadful disease ever again. They then proceeded to the meeting.

Jack just loved the Word and when I was a teenager, I would sometimes visit him and his wife in their caravan, which was called *El shaddai*, as they toured from assembly to assembly, preaching the Gospel. Jack was a coin collector. After he came to the Lord, he noticed many of the coins and medals struck down through the ages, tied in with and supported the Bible and Bible prophecy. He ended up with hundreds of coins and medals that were very convincing on many of the great historical events that linked in with the Bible.

Another of the first stories I heard was Len Day’s (Peter Mullin’s brother-in-law) testimony. Now Len was a born leader and well before he came into my life, he had stood out in the crowd. When he was in the islands during WW11, he constantly got into trouble, for being himself. He and some of his mates would find a secluded spot in the jungle and manufacture bits and pieces, and sell them to other soldiers as “genuine” merchandise. They would manufacture the enemy’s flags; shoot a few bullet holes in them and then sell them as genuine, captured enemy flags! So as you see, he was a real rebel.

After the war he became involved with speed-boats in a big way and a group of his mates followed him into that world. Whatever Len was into, his mates were also involved. Some time later, in the early to mid fifties, he got into racing cars. He

went a step further and designed his own car. One day he was rocketing around the Bathurst/Blue Mountains roads (West of Sydney) at very high speeds, when the front of his car lifted and he crashed. There was a strong wind blowing up the mountain and Len had designed the front of the car too close to the shape of the wing of an airplane. So the front wheels lifted off the road and Len was in big trouble. He suffered many injuries and was in hospital for many months. One leg was broken in eight places! But all of his injuries healed, except one, hidden damage he had done to his balance nerve in his inner-ear.

Len started going to some of the top specialists in Australia to try and find a cure, but without success. He would just suddenly black out and fall over. He ran a Car Radio Shop in Geelong, Victoria. One day in 1955, Jack Clay (above) came into his shop to get a car radio repaired. While Len was serving him, he had one of his black outs and fell over. Jack leaped the counter; picked him up and sat him in a chair. Jack asked Len what was the trouble. Like any sick person who finds someone who shows interest and seems sympathetic, Len poured out all his woes on Jack. After a while Jack said to Len: "I know someone who can heal you!" Len reminded him that he had been to the top specialists and nobody could help him. Jack insisted that he knew somebody. Eventually Len asked who it was. Jack said: "Jesus Christ!" Len recoiled and said that he was not at all religious and was not interested.

A few days later Jack came back for his car-radio. By this time Len was wary of him, because Jack was a "Bible Basher." When Jack asked him how he was, Len quickly told him that he had never felt better (to avoid Jack talking about the Lord again). Len then promptly fell over again. After Jack picked him up he said: "Look, Len; what have you to lose by giving the Lord a chance? Why not come to a meeting I am conducting in a little country hall and have some prayer. Len agreed. When he went home and told Joan (Peter's sister) that he was going to a "church meeting", she thought it was a great joke. She said "Well, you have tried everything else: you might as well go religious."

Len took the apprentice from work for company, as Joan would not go with him. When he got to the hall he nearly pulled out all together. In the end, he thought he would just have a quick look into the hall and if he did not like what he saw, he would shut the door and go home. As he looked through the door, Jack was down the front conducting the meeting and saw Len and waved to him. So then Len felt compelled to enter the Hall and he sat right at the back. Jack was showing some slides on Bible Prophecy. He was actually using an Epidiascope, which was a forerunner of a slide projector. One could place an article from a magazine or newspaper or even a page from the Bible and it would reflect it up onto a screen. Because it was a reflected image and not a slide, where the light passes through the image, it was very gloomy and hard to see.

Len crept down a few rows of seats and eventually ended up right down the front. Len was enthralled. When Jack gave an "altar call" at the end of the meeting and asked people to put up their hand and indicate their interest in coming to the Lord, Len's arm shot up. He looked around expecting every one's arms to be up, but his was the only one. He quickly pulled it down in embarrassment, but before he did, Jack said "I see that hand." The upshot was that Len and Joan both came to the Lord, and later, through Joan, Peter Mullin. Years later Len also went out for the Lord and was running three assemblies in a country area. Port Lincoln (previously mentioned); Whyalla and Ceduna, all in South Australia. The assemblies were hundreds of miles apart; in a triangle shape. At first Len would drive, in an old beat-up Mercedes, but

later he went for his Pilots License. When Len went for His medical he was A1. God had miraculously healed him of his damaged balance nerve.

It was also Jack that witnessed to Peter. Joan set up the meeting. Peter was a “red-ragger”; he was a sympathetic Communist and a “shop steward” for the union. He did not believe in God at all. He made up a long list of all his questions, that usually stumped religious people. When Jack saw the list, he said to Peter: “Why not leave your questions for a while and I will run through a “few things” (usually a couple of hours at least with Jack; he would run from Genesis to Revelation and tie it all together along the way). So Peter agreed to that and at the end of two hours he looked at his list and all the questions had been answered. Peter also came to the Lord and two years later became our first pastor in Adelaide.

I mentioned Leo Hendrix in chapter *The Big Four (Five?)*, who helped me leave school and get a job. Now Leo had been a successful businessman back in Holland. He ran a retail shop that sold clothing amongst other items. He had also studied architecture, but had never finished his degree. He heard about a German chap who had invented a house that could be constructed like a log-cabin, (with the corners overlapping) out of floor-boards. They were called Totem Homes. He sold his business (in the Netherlands) and bought a franchise to sell and construct these houses in the whole of Australia.

Through Barend, who had agreed to build the Totem Homes, Leo came and stayed with us in Lower Mitcham, Adelaide. It must have been just before we all came to the Lord. He was in our city trying to “sell” the idea to the banks and get some finance to get started. He had hard work of it and in frustration went and got drunk on wine. We found him wrapped up in a sheet in our spare room, sleeping it off.

Now Barend and another Leo, Leo Lenderts, who witnessed to Barend and Ans, was also a builder and was a partner with Barend. At the time Leo Lenderts came to the Lord in Port Lincoln, Leo Hendrix, his friend in Adelaide, was unaware of what had happened. Leo Hendrix was lodging with one of the Dutch families. They were Fons and Renee Smeets, who also later came to the Lord (I hope you are following this!). Leo Hendrix had not been all that successful in negotiating finance for the Totem Homes and had obtained a job selling jumpers, etc. in a Departmental Store, in the heart of Adelaide. He was bemoaning his lack of success. He was saying to himself: “Back in Holland I owned the store and here I am just selling jumpers.” He applied for a better job selling carpets for the biggest carpet business in Adelaide (Solomon’s). The first day he had record sales and he and the management were very pleased.

Next morning he got on the tram and headed into work. As he got off the tram, he had a strong feeling that he should go to Port Lincoln, where Leo Lenderts, Barend and Ans, lived. Leo Hendrix stood there arguing with himself. To one side of him was the new job and on the other side was the airways office. He could not believe he was even considering leaving this great job and going to meet his friend, Leo, in Port Lincoln. But the urge was intense. So he bought his air-ticket and headed off to my old country town, Port Lincoln. When he arrived at Leo Lenderts’ house, where he usually stayed, he was very cross with himself and could not believe he had been so stupid. He opened the front door and observed Leo Lenderts leaning on the mantelpiece in the lounge room. They greeted each other and Leo Hendrix asked for a cigarette. Leo Lenderts said he did not smoke anymore. Leo Hendrix looked in the corner where they kept the flagon of wine – it was not there. Leo Lenderts said that he did not drink anymore. Leo Hendrix was still standing all this time, in the doorway,

with his gabardine coat over his arm and his brief case in his other hand and his hat on his head. Leo Hendrix demanded: “What has happened?”

Leo Lenderts witnessed to him of how he had just come to the Lord. He went on talking for quite a while and then stopped, thinking he had better not hit him with too much up front. Leo Hendrix was still standing in the doorway as Leo Lenderts talked about everyday things. Leo Hendrix then interrupted Leo Lenderts and asked him to talk about the Lord again. Leo Hendrix had been brought up a Roman Catholic back in Holland, but he had never heard any of these things before. Later, after he came to the Lord, he said that as Leo Lenderts talked about the Lord, a wonderful peace descended upon him and all his worries and troubles, with the Totem Homes and money problems, vanished. The moment Leo Lenderts stopped talking about the Lord, all his troubles came back, and that is why he interrupted and asked Leo Lenderts to talk about the Lord again. The moment he did that, the peace of the Lord came back on Leo Hendrix. Everyone reacts slightly different when they encounter the Lord. The slightest incident can be all it takes to make us do a 180 degree about-turn and go from a rank disbeliever to a “I will die for you Lord” follower.

The officers, who were sent to arrest Jesus, [**John 7:32**] made a big “mistake”: they stood and listened to him and realized that this man was very different to anyone else they had ever heard. It took only a few moments and they were never the same again. They witnessed the preaching of one of the most amazing prophecies of Jesus concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit: “*In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink....(...this spake he of the Spirit, which **they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)***” (**John 7: 32-53**) When the officers returned to the chief priests and Pharisees (that had instructed them to arrest Jesus) empty handed, the Jewish hierarchy was indignant. Upon being questioned, the officers replied: “...**Never man spake like this man.**” (**Verse 61**) The Pharisees boasted that none of them had been hoodwinked by this imposter. Nicodemus, one of their own, believed in Jesus, after his encounter with the Lord late at night. (**John 3:1-13**). Nicodemus swung in along side the officers and said: “*Doth our law judge any man, **before it hear him**, and know what he doeth?*” (**Verse 51**) Nicodemus had personally “heard him” say that he needed to be “born again” and became His follower, thereafter.

With Leo Hendrix, it was the peace of God descending upon him as Leo Lenderts preached the Word to him. With Len Day it was a set of images (prophecy slides) through an Epidiascope and with Peter Mullin it was the answering of a long list of questions, as the Full Gospel was preached to him. I look at my own conversion and realize it is also an amazing story. No “raising of the dead” as the rich man thought was necessary to convert his brothers (**Luke 16:19-31**); just hearing the Gospel from a Spirit Filled person and putting God to the test and receiving the Holy Ghost with “*signs following.*” If you do not have your own “amazing story”, I hope and pray that some of those testimonies above, of people who had a big impact on me in the early part of my walk in the Lord, inspire you to seek the Lord: I know He will not let you down. If you already have an amazing story of conversion (everyone **saved** does), then continue to “walk the walk”; run the race and complete the course.

Chapter Twenty – The Whole Conclusion

The fourth great identifier of the Pentecostal Revival is the belief in the Second Coming of Jesus **in our time**. Jesus complained of His generation, two thousand years ago: “...*O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern **the signs of the times?***” (Matthew 16:1-5) And again in **Luke 12:54-57**: “...*but how is it that ye do not discern **this time?***” For all the myriad of prophecies on the first coming of Jesus, they were not ready; they had not worked it out; they were not expecting the Messiah to come in their life time. There are so many things that identify this time, right now, as the last time; the latter of the Latter Days.

I would like to clarify something right up front, and that is I do not believe in **the doctrine of The Rapture**. I am amazed, often in disbelief, that many (most?) in Pentecost believe this man-made doctrine. Mutilating the wonderful prophecy of the **first coming** of Jesus in **Daniel 9:24-27** on Daniel’s Seventy Weeks, as a basis for this doctrine, they eventually arrived at a time when the church is removed from this earth prior to the second coming of the Lord. This teaching has developed into a huge doctrine, where many fiction-type books have been written on what is supposedly going to happen. Just like any fiction books, it is solely the imagination of the authors. The “unlearned” and “blindly believing” folk are sucked into this ridiculous doctrine. The prophecies of Daniel and in particular the Book of Revelation are liberally interpreted by these “Spiritual Con-Men”! With heaps of input from such authors, they twist the Scriptures, to mean almost anything they like or imagine. The prophecies of these books of the Bible are historical; history before it happens. All one needs to do is place a history book along side these great books and all the great events of history over the last two to three thousand years **have already been fulfilled**. We are now standing at the very end of these books; the second coming and the setting up of the next age. The unfolding of Daniel and Revelation started from the moment the prophecies were uttered – The Image with the Head of Gold in Daniel started with the Babylonian Kingdom, where Daniel was a captive and in **Revelation 1: 1** we read: “...*to shew his servant things **which must shortly come to pass**; ...*” All the business about the “seven years” of the church being “raptured” (the word **rapture** is NOT in the Bible – it comes from a doctrine out of the “Dark Ages”; well before the Latter Rain) prior to the Second Coming, is pure fiction and unscriptural. You can believe it if you like, but it is a fairy-tale and not based upon sound doctrine. But I do believe in the Second Coming at the end of the age.

There are some simple prophecies that pin point these latter times. In **Daniel 12:4 and 9**): “*But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: **many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased....for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.***” There are two major statements here identifying the “*time of the end*”: running to and fro and an increase in knowledge. I believe this has a two-fold fulfillment. One is the natural and the other is the spiritual. The natural is the explosion of knowledge that has happened over the last 100 years. It is hard to believe that 100 years ago the main form of transport was still on horse-back and in horse-drawn vehicles. By 1969 mankind had landed a man on the moon in a rocket that traveled at around 25,000 miles per hour and only took around 4 days! We now “rocket” around the world in aircraft and motorcars. If you have ever driven on the Autobahns in Germany you will know all about what “running to and fro” means. There is a prophecy in **Nahum 2:4** that seems to fit the description I was about to give: “*The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall justle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall*

run like the lightnings.” I am sure this also had a meaning to the people in Nahum’s day, but it certainly describes the modern motorways also. Maybe Nahum had a vision of one of Germany’s Autobahns at night time; the cars certainly would have looked like torches and the speed the cars were going at “like the lightnings!”

We certainly have witnessed an “**explosion**” of knowledge over the last 100 years and at this very time, in the beginning of the 21st century, it is very difficult to keep up with minute by minute (second by second?) change in so many facets of our daily living. The increase of knowledge in the Medical World is outstanding. It is hard to believe it was not all that long ago doctors thought one of the best ways to help sick folk was to cup (bleed) them! It most probably helped to kill them! And what do we think of the world of electricity and electronics? What about computers? There is no doubt that “*Knowledge has Increased*” as a “*sign of this time*” and that we “*Run to and Fro*” like we never did for thousands of unchanged years.

Secondly there is a spiritual fulfillment of this great prophecy. The knowledge and understanding of God’s Word has multiplied since the out-pouring of the Holy Ghost over the last 100 years. We now see through “spiritual eyes” as we read the Word. Because of the “world becoming a village” through modern travel and communications, the Gospel Preachers are “*running to and fro*” taking the Good News to all mankind in a multitude of languages. Some of our greatest revivals are now taking place in far flung places on the earth. Recently I was talking to some young Christian friends of mine, who went to Main Land China to teach children English. They witnessed to some of the other teachers, who were Chinese. They instantly responded and were filled with the Holy Ghost. This mini revival was “squashed” by the authorities. There is a great hunger in Young People world wide to find “spiritual” satisfaction, but it is never stronger that in countries, such as Communist Countries, where the authorities oppress their people and rob them of the freedom of believing in God. God never goes away, just because Political Leaders tell people not to believe in Him!

Prophecies that I have already talked about: Jerusalem 1917 (chapter *The Wanderer’s Race*); Drying up of the Nile; Jerusalem 1967 (chapter *The Land of Mizraim*); all pin-point this generation as the last generation. We have a scary prophecy in **Zechariah 14:12** “*And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.*” This happens to be a perfect description of radiation on humans – it was described this way by witnesses of “survivors” at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In **Joel 2:28-32** the prophet speaks of the coming of the Holy Ghost and then finishes off with the end of the world: “*And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.*” It could have been translated “palm-trees” of smoke. The mushroom cloud of a Nuclear Bomb is now a familiar sight. Because there is so much going on, such as terrorist attacks like “September 11” (Twin Towers, New York) and suicide bombers, we tend to forget “the greater threat”, that never goes away, and that is the possibility of Nuclear Holocaust.

The big questions on the Mount of Olives: “...*Tell us, when shall these things be?* (destruction of Jerusalem under the Romans in 70AD) *and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*” (**Matthew 24:3**). **Luke 21 and Matthew 24** cover many of the Lord’s comments on His second coming and the end destruction. “*Immediately after the tribulation of those (these?) days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven,*

and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:..." (Matthew 24:29, 30) and "...and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled....Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth..." (Luke 21:24, 26). We have already discussed the amazing 2,520 years (7 times punishment -Leviticus 26) prophecy and the 2,300 years (Alexander the Great - Daniel 8) prophecy, which both zero in on the deliverance of Jerusalem. We have recently witnessed the fulfillment of the "times of the Gentiles" coming to an end and the Jewish Nation being established.

The "things" that we should be looking for are the myriad of signs that pinpoint the last days. Jesus said: "...Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; when they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see **all these things** come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." (Luke 21:28-30): We are seeing the stage being set up for the mighty return of Jesus Christ on the clouds: "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him ..." (Revelation 1:7). There is no indication that the saints will leave before the final destruction of this earth. Will God do it or will it be man? We do not know definitely, but the message from the Word is that we have to always be ready, for "...ye know not when the time is." (Mark 13:33) It is wishful thinking to think we will not be here to the very end: "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; **but is shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.**" (Psalms 91:7, 8). With every great prophesied destruction by God, the Lord always provided a way out for His saints, so there is nothing to fear. Sodom and Gomorrah/Lot; The Flood/Ark; Jerusalem in 70AD are examples.

Jesus gave a warning that, in approximately 40 years time; in , as it happened, 69AD; it would be a good time for the church to leave: "And when you shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then...flee to the mountains; ..." (Luke 21:20, 21) It does seem a silly time to wait for the city to be surrounded: how would you then get out and "flee to the mountains?" History records that the Roman General; Titus, besieged the city at the time of the Jewish revolt, but had to break off the engagement, as the emperor in Rome had died and Titus' father; Vespasian, was to become the Emperor. He had the city surrounded in 69AD; broke off the engagement to return to Rome for the "crowning" of his Dad; the saints got out and fled to the mountains and then Titus came back and lay siege to Jerusalem and after 6 months destroyed it and the Temple, where "...There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." (Matthew 24:2) It would appear that the Romans set the Temple on fire. Parts of the Temple were overlaid with gold, so the soldiers had to dig right down into the foundations to retrieve the melted gold and tore up every stone in the process!

I will finish the commentary on the Second Coming with some thoughts out of **2 Peter chapter 3**. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and **the elements shall melt with fervent heat**, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (Verse 10) Just as Zechariah painted, what is possible, a description of radiation; Peter here seems to describe Nuclear Holocaust; "elements melting" (splitting the atom) accompanied by an enormous "noise" and the release of extreme "fervent heat", sufficient to burn up the earth.

Whatever or however does not really matter – it is going to happen and every sign and indicator is that we are living in the end times: *“Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.”* (**Verse 14**) Good advice!

What happens when the Lord returns? Where are the “dead in Christ.” Again I am amazed how many people believe that when you die as a Christian you go straight to Heaven. Whatever happened to Judgment? *“...for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”* (**Romans 14:10**). Heaven is not yet set up. Some misunderstand Jesus’ comments to one of the murderers at the time of the crucifixion *“...to day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”* That “day” Jesus actually went into hell for three days and three nights. Jesus and the thief both went into the ground. Jesus did not actually return to “heaven” until 40 days later, when he went up on a cloud (**Acts 1:9**) Many people hang their whole salvation on the thief on the cross and somehow get out of this story that Jesus said to the thief “You don’t have to be baptized and you don’t have to receive the Holy Spirit!”

1 Thessalonians chapter 4 clears up the matter. *“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope... even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we...shall not prevent (proceed) them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout...and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive...shall be...caught up together... and so shall we ever be with the Lord...”* (Verses 13 to 18) The “dead in Christ” (those who “sleep in Jesus”) are resting in the grave waiting for the sound of the trumpet. This is not the time of “heaven”. Firstly we have 1000 years of “reigning with Christ” on earth (**Revelation 20:6**). We are not sure exactly what is the purpose of the Millennium: a “second chance” for some? (Do not rely on this thought); maybe for those who never had a chance? Millions in Red China, who are deprived from hearing through political oppression; could this be their chance? Could it be a time for God to reconcile fallen Israel? We really do not know and we can only guess. But purpose there is and it is all part of God’s Great Plan.

Who is Jesus coming back for? The faithful; the believers; the obedient; those that are Born Again; the *“general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, ...”* (**Hebrew 12:23**); The Spirit Filled; those who have washed their garments in the blood of the Lamb; the overcomers; all the brother and sisters that walk in the Spirit; those who love God and their neighbour; the holy ones (by Jesus); the sanctified ones; the blessed of the Lord.

So what is the conclusion? I will let the Bible speak for it self:-

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” (**Ecclesiastes 12:13**). Amen.

Thank you again for reading this Book (or E-Book). I only hope you enjoyed reading it half as much as I enjoyed the writing thereof. I have mentioned a number of friends and relatives in this book. I do not suggest for one minute that the thoughts or beliefs of this book are necessarily theirs. They are mine and only mine. There must be many things I have said and scriptures I have quoted, that you are “praying about”; I am sure that some of this book is new to you. I hope this book has helped you in your journey of life, but it does not “hold a candle” to the mighty Word of God. That is the Book to devour and obey. Even if you are grappling with some of my writings (hopefully not with the Word), I hope you will admit that this book exalts the Word; exalts God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit above any of the thoughts and ideals of man.

God bless you and feel free to E-mail me at jockduncan@iprimus.com.au

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jock Duncan from “Down Under”